

do it  
YOURSELF™



# DIY *ideas*

Projects and tips for every room







**do it**  
YOURSELF

# DIY *ideas*

*Projects and tips for every room*



WILEY

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

This book is printed on acid-free paper. ♻

Copyright © 2012 by Meredith Corporation, Des Moines, Iowa. All rights reserved

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 646-8600, or on the web at [www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com). Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

**Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty:** While the publisher and the author have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this book and specifically disclaim any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives or written sales materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. Neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

For general information about our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the United States at (800) 762-2974, outside the United States at (317) 572-3993 or fax (317) 572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats and by print-on-demand. Some content that appears in standard print versions of this book may not be available in other formats. For more information about Wiley products, visit us at [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com).

ISBN 978-1-118-14838-9

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

#### **Note to the Readers:**

Due to differing conditions, tools, and individual skills, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., assumes no responsibility for any damages, injuries suffered, or losses incurred as a result of following the information published in this book. Before beginning any project, review the instructions carefully, and if any doubts or questions remain, consult local experts or authorities. Because codes and regulations vary greatly, you always should check with authorities to ensure that your project complies with all applicable local codes and regulations. Always read and observe all of the safety precautions provided by manufacturers of any tools, equipment, or supplies, and follow all accepted safety procedures.



**MEREDITH CORPORATION**

#### **Editorial Director**

Gregory H. Kayko

#### **Do It Yourself Magazine Editor**

Bethany Kohoutek

#### **Do It Yourself Magazine**

##### **Art Director**

Kimberly Morgan Metz

##### **Contributing Book Editor**

Kathy Barnes

##### **Contributing Book Designer**

Stacey Willey

##### **Contributing Book Copy Editor**

Nancy Dietz

#### **Group Editor**

Lacey Howard

#### **Deputy Content Director**

Karman Hotchkiss

#### **Art Director, Home Design**

Gene Rauch

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Heather Knowles

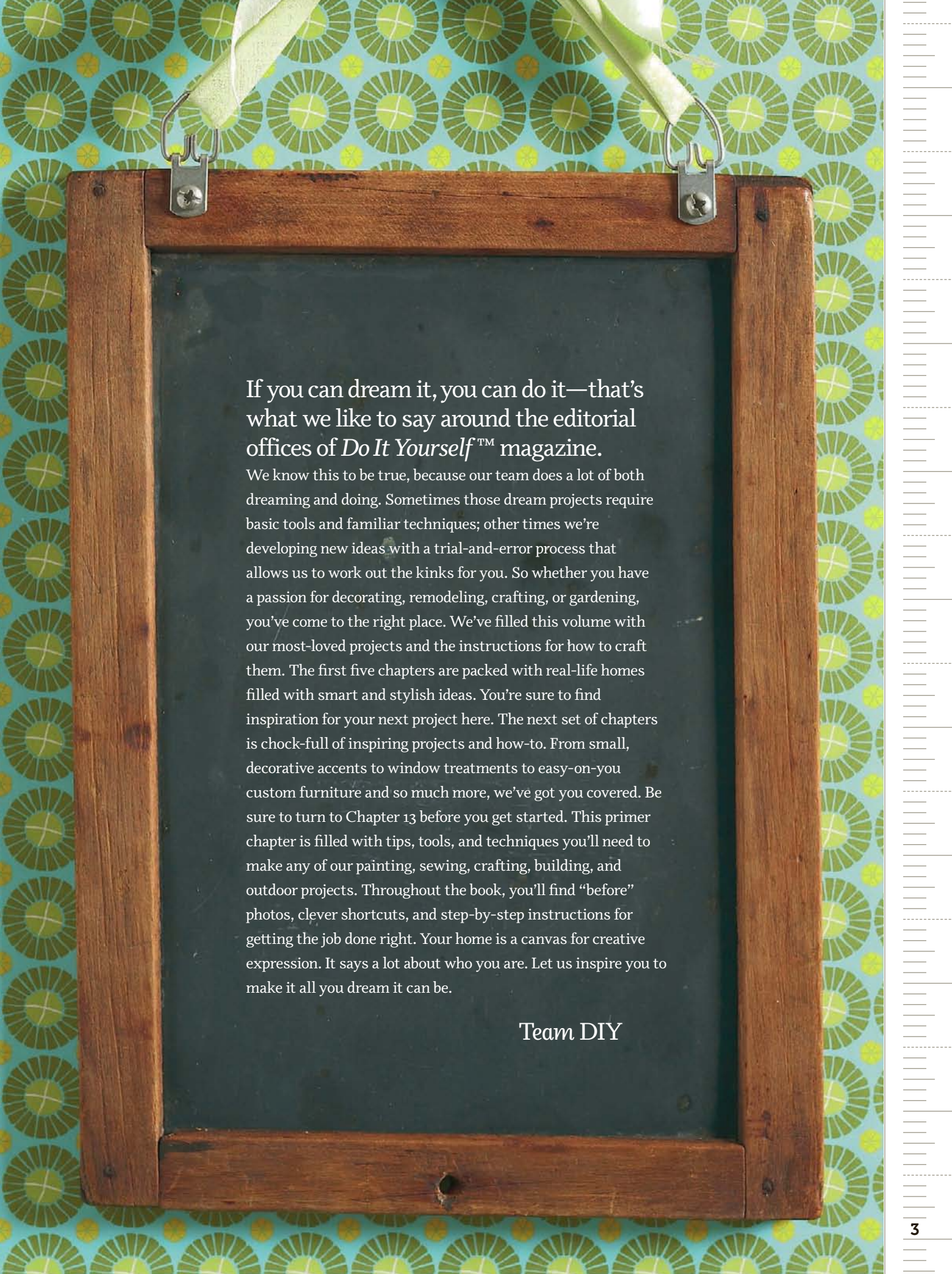
#### **Contributing Designers**

Jodi Harris, Katie Leporte,  
Pamela Porter, Molly Reid Sinnett,  
Brenda Wegner

#### **Contributing Photographers & Illustrators**

Adam Albright, Marty Baldwin,  
Kathryn Gamble,  
Cameron Sadeghpour,  
Ann Mackey-Weiss





If you can dream it, you can do it—that's what we like to say around the editorial offices of *Do It Yourself*™ magazine.

We know this to be true, because our team does a lot of both dreaming and doing. Sometimes those dream projects require basic tools and familiar techniques; other times we're developing new ideas with a trial-and-error process that allows us to work out the kinks for you. So whether you have a passion for decorating, remodeling, crafting, or gardening, you've come to the right place. We've filled this volume with our most-loved projects and the instructions for how to craft them. The first five chapters are packed with real-life homes filled with smart and stylish ideas. You're sure to find inspiration for your next project here. The next set of chapters is chock-full of inspiring projects and how-to. From small, decorative accents to window treatments to easy-on-you custom furniture and so much more, we've got you covered. Be sure to turn to Chapter 13 before you get started. This primer chapter is filled with tips, tools, and techniques you'll need to make any of our painting, sewing, crafting, building, and outdoor projects. Throughout the book, you'll find "before" photos, clever shortcuts, and step-by-step instructions for getting the job done right. Your home is a canvas for creative expression. It says a lot about who you are. Let us inspire you to make it all you dream it can be.

Team DIY



# DIY *ideas*

## Projects and tips for every room

### Real-Life Rooms

#### FAMILY SPACES

- 08 Cottage Charmer**  
Paint and pattern—and a lot of ingenuity—update a mix of fixer-upper furnishings.
- 12 Rugged Retreat**  
Turn an unfinished basement into a durable, comfortable room for the family.
- 18 Colorful Comforts**  
Simple projects make an unfinished basement into a livable extension of the home.

#### KITCHENS

- 28 Budget Makeover**  
Several gallons of paint, clever reuse ideas, and a few weekends fashion a vintage kitchen.
- 32 Small Packages**  
Colorful tile, skinny fixtures, and functional storage make a small kitchen cook.

- 36 Recipe for Style**  
Packed with smart planning and can-do projects, this kitchen is a family hub.

#### BEDROOMS

- 44 Sweet Dreams**  
Give an ordinary bedroom a splash of sunshine and pattern with a lively color palette.
- 48 Overnight Guests**  
Nature-inspired accessories pair with modern DIY furniture to create a cozy guest retreat.
- 52 Little Girl, Big Fun**  
Help your little one keep her bedroom tidy with these storage solutions.

#### WORK SPACES

- 60 Something for Everyone**  
This reinvented basement space is now the hardest-working room in the house.

- 64 So Simple, Sew Happy**  
A hardworking craft room packed with storage ideas is sure to inspire your creative side.
- 68 Double-Duty Office**  
Convert that extra bedroom into a home office and hobby room with a project closet you'll love.

#### LAUNDRY & BATHROOMS

- 76 Cure Your Laundry**  
Take your utility room from wishy-washy to wow with thrifty decorating ideas.
- 80 Little Wonders**  
When it comes to performance per square foot, it's hard to beat this little laundry room.
- 84 Pipe Dreams**  
For less than the price of cabinetry, you can make a wall unit with pipes and shelves.
- 88 Small Bathroom, Big Style**  
Making a tiny space live large doesn't have to cost a fortune.



23



60



76

## Projects

### FURNITURE MAKEOVERS

- 94** With a little elbow grease and a few creative ideas, you can remake almost anything. These lessons for fixing chairs, dressers, tables, and so much more show you how it's done.

### ACCENTS

- 110** Personal touches show off your style. Here are more than 80 projects you'll love to make.

### WINDOWS

- 144** To sew or not to sew? Find your answer here with projects that dress up bare windows using panels, shades, and more.

### HEADBOARDS

- 156** A headboard really makes your bed—even if you never do. Try one of these 18 projects sure to induce happy dreams.

### WALLS & FLOORS

- 168** Add architecture and interest to your room with ideas that turn plain walls and floors into DIY works of art.

### EASY FURNITURE

- 184** Firing up the power tools to make your own furniture is extremely satisfying. These ideas scale it back so even beginners can succeed.

### OUTDOOR ACCENTS

- 204** Make your green space special with ideas for paths, pots, fountains, fences, and furnishings. This is outdoor living at its best.

## Primer

### TIPS, TOOLS & TECHNIQUES

- 230** Our primer is chock-full of supporting tips, how-tos, and insider knowledge that will make your DIY projects go smoothly, including an extensive guide to painting, choosing, and using hand and power tools, and basics for sewing and crafting. Learn more about installing building materials inside and outside your home. Plus, we provide patterns for some of our featured projects.

### 262 EDITORS' FAVORITE RESOURCES



130



198



206









## Chapter 1

# room for fun family spaces









# cottage CHARMER

Paint and pattern—and a lot of ingenuity—update a mix of fixer-upper furnishings with interesting silhouettes and curvaceous turns.

Old and familiar blend with the new and the now in this sweet 1939 cottage—for instance, Grandmother's milk-glass compotes poised atop a stack of gridded IKEA bookcases. Or the sweet paired with the strong—a pink floral wallpaper backdrop for a Saarinen-inspired Tulip table. It's a look held together by a palette of blue, yellow, pink, cream, and black, and by ample use of furnishings chosen for their clean forms.

But none of these items cost a mint. Some are family treasures, while others were found at thrift stores, home centers, and the occasional roadside garbage pile. Simple stitched projects—pillows, ottoman slipcovers, and drapes—show how easy it is to personalize a purchased item into one-of-a-kind. There's great satisfaction in doing something yourself, even if it is done a little less than perfect.

Before decorating began in this 930-square-foot nest, the owner focused on the colors and finishes for the walls, floors, and windows, camping out in the basement until the walls and ceilings were painted or papered and the floors refinished. For the living room's color palette, soft restful colors were chosen—a neutral but elegant gray for the walls and a sky blue for the ceiling. To ground the room, window sashes were painted a sharp gray and the wood floors deepened to a rich, dark walnut hue.

Though it's always helpful to paint and stain sample boards to see how colors may look in a room before committing to labor-intensive painting, mistakes sometimes happen. But when your greatest cost is a gallon of paint, it's a comfort to know the only thing you'll be out is a little time, a few dollars, and maybe a sore back.

**Easy art** Create striped art from rolls of electrical and painter's tape wrapped around a board, *opposite*.

Tip: Cut strips longer than your board—electrical tape shrinks. **Mix it up** To freshen vintage style, mix bold, buoyant patterns in bright colors. Castoffs and affordable big-box items can be personalized to great effect: An \$18 canvas drop cloth was the raw material for one of the armchair slipcovers, *above*.





### On the ledge

The demilune ledge is embellished with embossed wallpaper from a home center and a DIY marble finish, *above*.

### Neutral territory

Keeping foundation pieces neutral—a white slipcovered chair and a black bookshelf—allows you to update a room with striking accessories, such as a bold chevron pillow, *above left*.

### Dining in

White paint brings harmony to mismatched furniture, such as these dining chairs, *below left*. New fabric seat covers finish the look. A polystyrene ceiling medallion and crystal chandelier make the small room feel grand.

### Color surprise

A builder kitchen was refreshed with unexpected pops of sea-glass green—new cabinet fronts and knobs, countertops, even ceiling paint—to boost the 1930s appeal, *below*.







### Instant sideboard

A pair of IKEA bookcases were turned on their sides and stacked to make a buffet that showcases baskets, cake stands, and dinnerware.









# rugged RETREAT

Turn an unfinished basement into a durable, comfortable recreation retreat the whole family will enjoy.

Rather than fighting a basement's rugged nature, use it to your advantage to create a space that lets the family know it's OK to relax and have fun.

Start underfoot. Concrete floors are difficult to damage and easy to clean, perfect for a space used by children. Up the style quotient by treating the floors with an etching stain normally used for patios and garage floors (see how-to on page 179).

Cool gray floors and neutral walls create a clean slate for bold-color accents. Inspired by family-favorite hobbies, such as music and sports, this basement is brightened by high-energy reds, oranges, and blues.

To avoid the closed-in feeling all too common in basements, the spaces in this family room flow into each other. Instead of a bunch of small rooms, this basement is subtly divided into

distinct zones for watching TV, playing games, and making snacks.

To divide an open space, use different flooring to anchor each area. An island of carpet tiles under the game table is perfect for durability. If you spill on a square, pick it up, wash it off, and put it back. A cushy area rug in the TV "room" provides softness.

A DIY brick wall is another option for setting a space apart while upping the basement's industrial look. The homeowners applied thin brick veneers to the wall via a metal grid system, a method that's less like bricklaying and more like tiling.

The perfect finish to a family basement is a kitchenette. When a full-service one isn't possible due to space or budget, turn a small nook into a wet bar using a compact fridge and a small sink set in a home-store vanity.

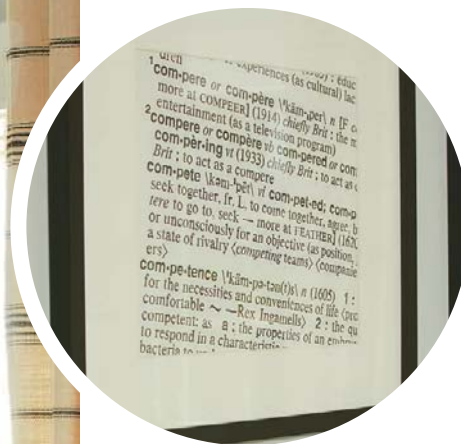
**Play it again** Save a vintage stereo cabinet by giving it new life as a console or buffet, *opposite*. The warm wood tones help balance the space's more industrial feel. **Lyrical pursuit** Create a cheery, self-made art collection using favorite song lyrics, *above*. Typeset the words against colors that fit the decor.



### What they did...

A corner becomes a cozy gaming and TV-watching space, *above*. Define the zone with carpeting or a rug, which will cut down noise. This family saved money on an area rug by shopping the clearance sections at furniture stores and flooring galleries and having a carpet installer bind the edges. Metal sawhorses become damage-proof ottomans when topped with cushions made of indoor-outdoor fabric. Another industrial-chic option: Cut a piece of medium-density fiberboard (MDF) to fit the top of a galvanized tub and cover with bold paint. Add a pillow.





## Defined style

For easy artwork, enlarge and photocopy words from a copyright-free dictionary, *above*. Pick words that relate to your family's hobbies.

## Pillow talk

Swapping out accents is the easiest way to remake a space. DIY pillows are an inexpensive option.

**Shop around** The fabrics store does not have a corner on the textile market. Thrift, home center, and hardware stores can hold great finds if you know where to look. Think clearance duvets, vintage shower curtains, and drop cloths, which were used for these durable pillows, *left*.

**Word play** Dress up plain pillows with letters or images cut from fabric scraps, *below*. These texting terms were stitched on before the pillows were sewn; you can use iron-on transfer paper to add designs to purchased pillows.







### Outside in

For a bit of whimsy, turn an interior door into a '50s-style apartment door, complete with peephole, metal apartment numbers, and "windows," above. (The windows are glass rectangles painted white on one side and mounted to the door's exterior.)

### Furniture CPR

A \$20 flea market table updated in a coat of black paint serves as game-night central, *left*. The secondhand chairs were \$10 each, leaving money to reupholster them.

### Fool the eye

A shallow bookcase holds display space and a fun secret—it's actually a door that leads to a bonus room, *left*. Items on the bookshelf stay in place thanks to a putty typically used in earthquake zones.

### Rock star

Add fun touches, such as this rock 'n' roll artwork starring the whole family created on the computer, *below*.







### Sign up

Get creative with cabinet door pulls. Turn vintage metal signs into handles, buffering them with rubber doorstops, to add to a basement's family-friendly sturdiness.









# colorful COMFORTS

Get the lowdown on how these simple projects can make the basement a livable extension of your home.

A heavy dose of DIY details adds a personal touch to this belowground living space. Bright colors create an airy, nonbasement feel. And smartly chosen furniture pieces expand the room's possibilities.

A cool archway welcomes guests to the basement space. The architectural element looks like a designer touch but is actually a homemade solution to a structural problem. A low pipe ran directly over the entryway; rather than relocating the door, a lowered archway constructed from flexible ¼-inch wood hides it.

Chic floors in kicky colors are an important upgrade in this basement. Inexpensive floating floor products make installation a snap, even for a novice DIYer. The lock-in-place flooring doesn't require a wood subfloor over the basement slab or an adhesive. In the TV area, linoleum planks and tiles create a fun pattern

(see how-to on page 182). The bar area features cork-look vinyl, which comes on a roll. It is cut to fit the space (using a newspaper template helps with precise measuring) and, after it is allowed to expand, baseboard is installed to hide any imperfections from trimming for fit.

Other custom details include a stair rail made from cable, plain wood posts, and a handrail. Metal brackets support glass shelves cut to fit in the bar; the total cost for all nine was just \$70. Modular benches provide flexible seating and space-savvy storage.

Painted in a trio of bold colors and topped with striped cushions, the modular units also add personality to the room. Other bright ideas for livening the space include plastic discs hung from fishing line to dress up the windows, fabric letters to customize fun pillows, and duotone photos used as artwork.

**Pillow flair** Add a personal touch to any room with custom pillows, *opposite*. To get this look, fuse fabric letters and shapes onto fabric blocks, and stitch them onto removable pillow covers. **Shapely shades** To upgrade track pendants, cut shades from blackout fabric, fuse them to decorative fabric, and attach them to an adhesive-back shade liner, *above*. Wrap the liner around two metal rings and secure it with yarn stitches.



### What they did...

If you hate the idea of having a TV as the focal point in a room, consider wall-to-wall sliding panels that hide the set when it's not in use, *left*. The six sheer panels are attached to three window-treatment tracks on the ceiling. Painting the wall behind the television deep red makes it recede, visually expanding the room.





### On a roll

Space-savvy modular storage benches don't hog floor space. The units—topped with cushions—give guests a spot to sit on game night, above.

## Expand boundaries

Basements are a special design challenge. They are often small or oddly shaped, plus they usually need to serve many functions. Here's how to make your below-grade space more flexible.

**Go modular** In this family room, benches on wheels can be easily moved to where they are needed most. The basic boxes are a simple DIY project (turn to page 251). If furniture construction is outside your skill set, screw heavy-duty casters to the bottom of purchased pieces. For particularly long or wide units, add casters in the middle for added support.

**Streamline the design** When building or buying furniture, go for streamlined designs. Sofas, benches, and tables with straight sides offer more arrangement options; they can sit flush side by side, back to back, or against a wall.

**Make it multitask** Make the most of a room with furniture that serves multiple purposes. In this room, the modular benches and end tables offer storage space for hiding toys and books, below. Also consider investing in a table with leaves so it can grow when needed, a sofa bed that can provide extra sleeping space, an ottoman or coffee table with hidden storage capacity, and track lighting that can be adjusted when electrical outlets aren't where needed.







### Screen stars

For the TV-hiding panels, print large letters and numbers and then draw the shapes onto fusible webbing. Apply to the fabric, then cut out the shapes and iron onto the panels. Whipstitching further secures the shapes, *above*.

### Art idea

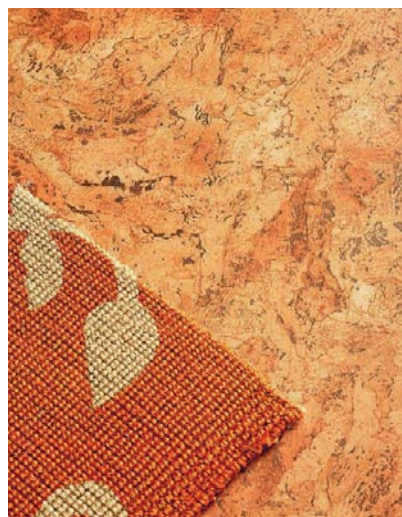
Convert digital flower images to duotone on the computer and then have a developing center print them onto rigid styrene board for no-frame-needed artwork, *above left*.

### Stone path

The runway of tumbled stone behind the sink is a table runner, *below left*. Draw lines on the wall where the runner will hang. Use adhesive to attach the runner, holding it in place for a few minutes while the adhesive sets.

### Floor show

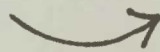
A cork-look linoleum floor system clicks and locks into place with no adhesive, *below*.







Create a cheap yet sleek bar by converting a \$200 commercial-grade worktable. Cut holes in the top for an above-counter sink and faucet. To hide the plumbing, hang a metal-look laminate panel from a closet door slider.





## how to create a cozy family room

It's easier to kick back and relax when your family room is well organized.

**1. Clean house** The first step to decluttering your living space is to get rid of or relocate anything you don't use or that doesn't belong in a public space.

**2. Every square inch** Take full advantage of all the open space your family room offers. Hang a ledge above a window, install display boxes on a sliver of wall next to a door, or place a narrow console table in a walkway behind the sofa.

**3. Twice as nice** Purchase furniture that does double-duty by providing hidden storage, such as a lidded ottoman or footstool. Or convert existing pieces with a simple makeover. Add a skirt around a table to hide storage boxes.



**Kid-size storage** Placing movies and a media player at a low level enables kids to help themselves and easily put items away. Storage cubbies keep toys and art supplies at hand in a family space that doubles as a playroom.



**Triple threat** A storage ottoman offers a place to rest your feet, adds extra seating for a full house, and provides an under-cover spot for stashing throws, movies, remotes, and more.



**Boxed in** Pair a wall-mounted television with a storage-savvy credenza. Stack a variety of wooden boxes inside an open cabinet and fill the spaces with bins for concealed storage. See a similar project on page 197.





**By the book** Custom built-ins flank a window and offer both display and storage opportunities. Let pretty books function as artwork on open shelves, and use baskets to keep things looking tidy.



**Fireside chat** For a modern take on fireside bookshelves, create an integrated design with a chunky mantel extended across one wall. Add a matching shelf above and use the open space below for taller items.



**Under cover** Don't waste a square inch of space. Maximize a small window nook with a storage bench that's hidden behind a fabric skirt. Wall shelves and magazine racks keep the nook organized.



**Good look** A full wall of stock cabinets creates ample storage and, when finished with trim and painted, looks like a built-in focal point. Glass doors on top put special collections on display.









## Chapter 2

# *cooking in style* kitchens



kitchens







# budget MAKEOVER

Several gallons of paint, some clever reuse ideas, and a few weekends fashioned this vintage kitchen into one colorful dish.

Almost everything about this 1920s farmhouse kitchen was charming—from the construction details to its efficient footprint. But time had been unkind: Thick layers of paint kept cupboard doors from closing and filled in the original tin ceiling's relief pattern. Like many old kitchen rehabs, this one started with a lot of undecorating.

The tin ceiling was stripped and refreshed with a sunny gold color. Cupboards can add a lot of expense to a kitchen remake, so these—which were in otherwise good condition—were stripped and repainted a watery blue on the doors and dove gray on the frames. Glued-on linoleum flooring was removed, revealing original dark oak floors. Because they weren't in good shape, painting them a field of white and gold was a no-guilt decision. The hues balance the pop of color on the ceiling. A circular braided

rug breaks the room's boxiness and ups its energy level. Old linoleum that was glued to the wall behind the oven was replaced with a classic subway tile backsplash.

But wood tones weren't banished. For spots of warmth (and a visual link to oak moldings elsewhere in the house), the couple tempered the bright shades with an oak table—sliced in half to fit the small space—and a wide oak file cabinet to the right of the oven, which adds a fun storage element to the room. Deep drawers can hold everything from linens to small appliances. Eco-friendly bamboo countertops contribute more golden tones.

Sleek new stainless-steel appliances bring the kitchen fully into this century. A mosaic tile backsplash elsewhere ties together the kitchen's blue, ivory, gray, and brown color palette for a look that feels right at home.

**Take it away** Once layers of paint, linoleum, and shelf paper were removed, the kitchen's character could be appreciated, *opposite*. A palette of brights is mood-lifting. **Salvage sense** After reusing and restoring what they could, the couple shopped for recycled and sustainable materials, *above*. Recycled-glass mosaic tiles went on in sheets. Bamboo countertops took the place of outdated laminate.



### Vintage prize

Collections cue the mood and palette, *above and below*. Look to your collections for color and style inspiration.

### Table for two

A bargain oak table looks twice as cool when only half of it is used, plus it fits the space better, *above left*. Golden yellow and white paint refresh a wood floor.

### Office space

With some clever rethinking, an oak file cabinet bridges a space between the oven and the wall, offering its counter-height top as a work surface and large drawers as storage, *below left*. Label each drawer and stash dishes, linens, candles, and entertaining essentials.

### Breakfast spot

The table is a great spot for a quick bite. Fabric unifies a mix of chairs. For painted hardwood floors that won't scuff, use an exterior-grade paint or specialty floor paint, *opposite*.





## diy tip

In a small space, look up for additional storage opportunities. Hang shelves high to hold collections. Framed feed sacks plus vintage art pottery and figurines—many of which are family pieces—express the homeowners' interests.





kitchens







# small PACKAGES

Colorful tile, compact fixtures and appliances, and functional storage systems help this condo kitchen live larger than its footprint.

**When your entire condo is only 750 square feet, the kitchen is necessarily small.** Such is the case in this pint-size home. The natural light, hardwood floors, and stunning woodwork were all worth saving. Not so pleasant, however, was the nearly unworkable layout, lack of storage, and short and shallow cabinetry. To make the old space work for modern living, it was remade with a country-in-the-city look.

Removing one half-wall opened the kitchen to make the limited space more accessible. Vinyl flooring got the heave-ho to reveal the original beautiful hardwood floors.

After layers of old paint were stripped to reveal original glass panels, the upper cabinets were rehung higher on the wall to visually expand the space. Custom lower cabinets were installed, allowing room to integrate a suite of

small-scale appliances. New bronze hardware (coupled with copper accents) adds to the room's vintage feeling.

Bright white and other basic neutrals swathe the bulk of the kitchen and adjoining dining area. It's OK to be bold in a tight space when graphic patterns are used in small doses, such as this kitchen's backsplash and the adjacent dining room's area rug. If you grow tired of the splashy look, it's easy to change.

The small kitchen is finished with layers of easy-to-change accessories that continue the color story. Vintage touches and artifacts bring the space to life without costing big dollars.

A framed pegboard provides practical and inexpensive storage. It occupies underused wall space and frees room in drawers and cabinets. Hung near the kitchen's prep space, it keeps needed tools in easy reach.

**Clear view** Glass-front cabinets appear to expand a tiny kitchen, *opposite*. The insides are painted a deep blue. The color recedes, helping with the visual trickery. **By the numbers** A suite of slim appliances, such as this refrigerator, make it possible to pack a full and functional kitchen into a small space, *above*.



### What they did...

This small kitchen is bright, open, and practical thanks to a new layout, custom lower cabinets, and a suite of small-scale appliances that offer full-size function, *above*. In a small room, don't let large appliances eat up valuable floor space. This slim gas range provides plenty of functionality in its 24 inches. Concealed by cabinetry panels are a whisper-quiet 18-inch dishwasher (left of the sink) and a narrow refrigerator (right of the range). The apron-front sink was chosen to look expansive but is actually quite small by modern standards.



1



2



## Strategies for small kitchens

These designer tricks go a long way in helping a petite kitchen look roomier and function more effectively.

**1. Got it pegged** Legendary cook Julia Child used a pegboard to keep utensils organized in her kitchen. Steal her smart idea for practical storage by framing a basic pegboard and outfitting it with hooks.

**2. Wide open** An apron-front sink looks larger than its size, perfect for a small space. A high-arc faucet enhances the shallow basin.

**3. Big shot** Choose one area in the room and make a style statement. Handmade Moroccan concrete tiles on the backsplash add a graphic punch of color.

**4. Gather round** The dining area takes advantage of sunlight streaming through the large windows. A round pedestal table provides maximum legroom in the small space, which is defined by a colorful area rug.

3



4











# recipe FOR STYLE

Packed with smart planning and can-do projects, this kitchen is a family hub for crafting, working, lounging—and, yes, cooking.

**No longer a space used just for cooking, the kitchen is the hub of most homes.** To boost function, start with space planning. The foundation of any kitchen is cabinetry. Ready-to-assemble products are a money-saving alternative to custom cabinets. Here, they're used to create distinct zones—one for cooking and another for dining and working.

An island made from stock pieces anchors one side of the room, while a built-in breakfast nook and desks give the other side new purpose. Stock cabinetry also allows for creativity, such as fitting a wine rack into a slim spot beside the fridge or placing three upper cabinets between vertical panels to create a hutch.

Don't be afraid to mix it up when it comes to countertops and cabinets. In this kitchen, a mix of whitewashed counters, white and light birch cabinets, and butcher-block island countertop

are visually interesting and united by a single finish for the hardware.

Once the essentials are in place, add the colorful elements to make the room cozy and personal. Scrapbooking paper and alphabet stickers from an office supply store create fun labels for the glass-front island drawers. Silhouettes cut from contact paper adhered to yellow mat board become graphic artwork. Two small rugs stitched together create a low-price, high-impact area rug.

Soften a kitchen's hard lines with fabric. For a quick window treatment, sew a simple valance, attach grommets, and hang with S-hooks. Add an unexpected slipcover to kitchen stools with a graphic fabric. Cover a pantry or hutch opening with a hemmed piece of fabric. Appliqué a favorite motif, cut from fabric, onto a plain tea towel.

**Functional fun** Though it looks like the work of a pro, this kitchen is a DIYer's dream, *opposite*. Flat-pack cabinets are easy to assemble and install. The open floor plan caters to the way a modern family lives.

**Hang it up** An inexpensive rail system with S-hooks provides the perfect spot to keep cooking utensils off the countertop but still handy, *above*.



### Walls that wow

A painted stencil pattern creates the look of on-trend wallpaper without the cost, *above*. When you're ready for something new, simply paint over it.

### Custom solution

Two pieces placed back to back form this island, *above left*. On one side, drawers conceal clutter, and on the other, open shelving keeps cooking tools within easy reach.

### Appliance garage

Two panels, hung from a tension rod, create this pretty appliance garage for hiding small items, such as the toaster and coffeemaker, *below left*. Buttons keep the panels open when needed.

### Easy being green

Being environmentally friendly needn't be extra work. A deep kitchen drawer provides instant access to labeled plastic bins for recyclables, *below*.





## diy tip

Custom carpentry can be costly, but you can get the look of a built-in breakfast nook for a lot less dough. Sandwich over-the-fridge cabinets between two closets outfitted with stock cabinets, desktops, and open shelving, *this photo*. Top the bench with a thick, comfy cushion. Give an outdated oak table a bold new look with a couple of coats of bright blue paint (be sure to prep the table first).





## how to create a chef's treat

Good planning makes it possible to have everything you need close at hand.

- 1. Pleasing pullouts** Make it easier to find the tool or ingredient you need by choosing cabinets with rollout shelves and deep drawers instead of fixed shelves.
- 2. Hidden treasures** Keep countertops clear of clutter by stowing small tools in cubbies or an appliance garage. Mount tension rods vertically inside a cabinet to keep baking sheets upright and organized.
- 3. Hang in there** Convert wasted space into storage space by putting often-used items on display. Use a magnetic strip mounted to a backsplash for knives, for example, or keep pots and pans convenient with a hanging pot rack.



**Sneak peek** Using glass fronts on a few cabinets helps break up expanses of cabinetry and makes it possible to display pretty dishes that match the decor. Just a couple of glass-front doors can make a big impact.



**Hanging tough** Think you don't have room for a buffet? Think again. This DIY design is made from medium-density fiberboard (MDF) and attached to the wall with an inconspicuous French cleat.



**Sweet shelf** Fill a space between cabinets with a ledge for displaying collections or grab-and-go essentials. Open shelving infuses a casual, contemporary feeling. Hooks give you the option to use hanging storage.





**Shelve the issue** Expand storage space by hanging shelves on a small stretch of wall next to cabinetry. Narrow, angled shelves won't intrude into a traffic path. Adhere wallpaper inside the cabinet for interest.



**Dine in style** Turn a corner of the kitchen into a breakfast nook by creating bench seating using cushion-topped upper cabinets trimmed in baseboard. A round table is a smart space-saver.



**Short stack** In an open kitchen with minimal wall space, use a pair of shelves to hold those items that are interesting to look at as well as useful. A recessed microwave frees counter space in a small kitchen.



**Easy island** An island made from two hollow-core doors becomes a spacious workstation. Underneath, cabinets made from MDF and filled with cubbies are a perfect spot to stash various sundries for easy access.









## Chapter 3

# pretty & personal bedrooms



bedrooms







# sweet DREAMS

Give an ordinary bedroom a splash of sunshine and pattern with a lively color palette and a handful of easy-does-it projects.

**This cheerful bedroom was once a boring white box**, but its new peppy blue-and-yellow palette would make anyone smile. The remake started by covering the walls with yellow paint and the floor with a colorful rug.

The windows are dressed in clearance curtains, which were extended to floor-length by stitching remnant fabric to the bottom of each panel. Another discount panel was cut and sewn into coordinating pillowcases.

Bright blue is used sparingly as a high-impact accent. To create a statement headboard, cut medium-density fiberboard (MDF) into a curvaceous shape. Paint the edges white, then wallpaper it with a large-scale, eye-popping pattern.

Another pop of blue comes from the heart pillow made from 22 yards of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch grosgrain ribbon. To make it, sew a single running stitch

near one edge of the ribbon, then pull the thread to ruffle. Hand-stitch the ribbon in a heart shape to fabric, working your way from the outside in, securing concentric heart shapes inside one another until filled in. Use the embellished fabric to construct a pillow using a 2-inch boxing strip, piping, and fabric back.

This small bedroom is also packed with storage-savvy ideas. Drawers in the bench hide out-of-season clothes. A wicker basket keeps spare blankets handy for cold nights. A metal bread box is repurposed to hold hair essentials.

Other small items are stowed in a variety of boxes covered in palette-pleasing papers. The vanity area is as pretty as it is practical. To soften the seat of the flea market chair, two cotton napkins were sewn together, with a layer of quilt batting sandwiched between, and tufted with perle cotton to make a cushion.

**Bright side** A modest budget need not cramp your style. For a thrifty way to take your bedroom from dreary to cheery, splash on vibrant hues with paint, fabric, and wallpaper projects, *opposite*. **Stash factor** An easy-sew pouch made of remnant fabric organizes makeup brushes, *above*. Stitch several pockets to suit your needs. Roll up your caddy and close with a ribbon.



### Better half

Easy access makes the morning routine quicker. Fashion wall pockets for makeup and other small items by cutting wooden bowls in half and screwing them onto a painted board, which you can attach to the wall or the base of a sturdy mirror, *above*.

### Small stuff

Raid the dollar store and the kitchen for various tins and pans to tidy a vanity drawer, *above left*. For a cohesive look, glue pretty paper scraps to the tops and use rub-on letters as labels.

### Branch out

Take the term *jewelry tree* literally with this clever idea, *below left*. Cover a dry, sturdy branch with several coats of high-gloss paint. Screw the finished piece to a painted wooden block.

### Cheap chic

A DIY headboard made of inexpensive MDF hangs away from the wall thanks to a 2x3-inch wood cleat, *below*.





## diy tip

If you crave a comfortable, casual look for your home, always be on the lookout for secondhand furniture that needs merely cosmetic touches rather than structural changes. This wicker vanity was a thrift shop score. It was in good shape but looked worn and sad. A quick coat of white spray paint revived the piece for just a few dollars.





bedrooms







# overnight GUESTS

Warm earth tones, organic shapes, and nature-inspired accessories pair with modern DIY furniture to create a cozy retreat.

**Making guests feel at home starts with a welcoming bed. Daybeds are super functional** but can look out of place in a contemporary home. Not this one. With clean, straight lines and sleek upholstery, this modern daybed is a worthy focal point.

The platform was constructed from one sheet of ¾-inch MDF. Walnut trim, mitered at the corners, is used to hide the MDF's raw edges. The entire platform was stained chocolate brown before the addition of heavy-duty hairpin legs.

Atop the platform is a twin-size memory-foam mattress, which is not only incredibly comfortable but also offers a smooth surface (no stitching or tufting to show through the upholstery). The mattress cover is secured with hook-and-loop tape along the back seam so it can be removed for cleaning. Corded welting is

a simple detail for a professional-looking finish that lends the look of an upholstered piece of furniture.

A made-to-fit bolster pillow serves as a back when the daybed is in sofa mode. Make one to specifications by having an upholstery foam company cut foam to size. Cover the pillow with the same fabric as the bed for a modern monochromatic look.

This daybed cost less than \$800—a steal for both a bed and a sofa. A DIY bench made from concrete legs and a walnut top continues the modern style through the room.

An earth-and-sky palette and outdoorsy accents ground the modern furniture and keep the room's overall look inviting. Flower-filled vases, a birdhouse, tree-branch hooks, and lots of organic shapes make this a room a guest may never want to leave.

**Back to nature** Make your guest room feel like a treehouse retreat with walls that look like wood grain, *opposite*. The look is easy to create using an inexpensive wood-grain tool from the paint store. **Branch out** Nature-inspired pillows are easy to create, *above*. Sew a driftwood-shape pillow from brown fabric; add yarn embroidery. Stitch crocheted leaves and leather-wrapped cord (for a stem) onto a purchased pillow.



### What they did...

Storage crates are inexpensive and practical end tables, *above*. Stained to match the daybed, one of the crates is turned on end and filled with reading material for guests. A top was cut to fit the other; it is used to store clean linens and extra toiletries. Adding a label to the box lets guests feel empowered to peek inside without feeling like they are snooping. Decorate the bedside tables with bed-and-breakfast amenities, such as a clock and water-filled carafe, to make guests feel at home.





### Bench warmer

Made like the platform bed, this wood bench sits atop concrete, *right*. Fill round forms with concrete mix, set overnight, then tear off the tubes. Secure the bench with adhesive.

## host with the most

Can't dedicate an entire room for guests? Maximize function by creating a combination guest room and home office.

**Command central** Use a series of framed chalkboards, pegboards, and corkboards to keep office notes tidy. When guests are in town, the boards can be used to leave messages, maps, and more.

**Take charge** Hide unsightly cords by drilling a hole in the back of an old toolbox to convert it into a charging station. Let guests know they can use it during their visit.

**Basket case** Use lidded wicker baskets to quickly stash messes in case of unannounced visitors.

**On a roll** A movable table, like the acrylic one in this room, can be used as a work surface or rolled out of the way when not needed.

**Small things** Even if you use the room as an office most days, don't forget to stock it with niceties for a guest. An alarm clock, a portable fan, and a TV are all great ways to show your visitors you care.





*create*







# little girl, BIG FUN

Kids and clutter go together like peanut butter and jelly. Help your little one keep her bedroom tidy with these storage solutions.

**This room is packed with child-size storage solutions**, starting with a smart DIY bed. A twin bed tops a wide pullout that can be filled with toys or blankets—or outfitted with an additional mattress to function as a trundle bed for sleepovers.

Building the twin-size bed into the wall like a daybed allows plenty of open play space in the center of the room. Stock cabinetry components from a home center flank the ends of the bed, serving as built-in bedside tables that offer a lot more storage capacity than the average nightstand.

Up top and within easy reach of the bed, a divided drawer unit functions as an imaginative place to stash trinkets—hair bows, lip balms, and tiny doll shoes.

The room's storage high point grew from an inauspicious closet with odd angles. The

doorway was widened for bifold French doors, making it a true walk-in. After a section of wall was knocked out and insulation was added, cabinets and carpet squares were installed. Now a once-wasted dormer space earns its keep.

Double rods hold tons of clothing, while a new window seat offers a space to dress in the morning or just kick back with a book. Packed into the eaves of the home is the equivalent of a built-in dresser to hold folded clothes. The display-front drawers more commonly used to store dry goods in a kitchen now hold grab-and-go needs.

Another way to reduce clutter is to find toys that serve as storage pieces. The appliances in this room's play kitchen set offer ample storage space for dishes and toys.

One last tip: Swap out the color palette and this room plays just as hard for a little boy.

**True blue** Turquoise ceramic knobs and bin pulls that are easy for little fingers to grip embellish basic home center cabinets, *opposite*. **In good taste** Decorative pails corral small items to help keep a play space tidy, *above*.



### In the zone

Home center cabinets pump up the storage in this closet under the eaves, *above*. Open shelves are filled with colorful boxes. Clear bins are perfect for grab-and-go items such as socks and mittens. A small peg rack keeps coats and hats handy.

### Hang out

French bifold doors and built-in storage give the once-awkward closet style and function, *right*. A window seat offers a quiet spot to perch, while parallel clothes rods double the hanging potential for clothes.

### Open up

Using space efficiently allows a bedroom to double as a playroom. Tucking the bed parallel to the wall opens up floor space in the center of the room, *opposite*.

## diy tip

Kids simply overflow with creativity. Give them a place to express themselves with a framed art station hung at kid height. Dry-erase markers work on the mirrored side, while magnetic chalkboard paint makes the other side a place to draw or hang artwork.





dance

*giggle*

sing



## how to create personal space

Streamline your bedroom and make it the serene haven you've always desired.

- 1. Season swap** Under-bed containers can hold out-of-season clothes to leave closet space for those items in heavy rotation. Purchase rolling bins or make your own by adding casters to suitcases or old dresser drawers.
- 2. Divide and conquer** Use freestanding shelves or curtains to create zones within a bedroom for sleeping, TV watching, working, and dressing.
- 3. Drawer ideas** Deep drawers aren't always used to their maximum potential. Stackable trays, dividers, and small boxes can be used to keep like items together while still using the full depth of a drawer.



**Bunk mate** Custom-designed bunk beds include built-in storage on one end with shelves for books. Building the beds into a corner leaves more floor space for play and study.



**Bonus closets** When a room's architecture leaves you with little wall space, make the most of what you have with built-in storage. Simple closets that follow the lines of the roof use every inch.



**Hook up** Place a daybed against a wall in a small bedroom to make room for play on the floor. Add a wall shelf and hooks to make the most of your vertical space.





**On the wall** Install wall-mounted shelves around the bed. Shop for ready-made units or make your own with brackets and a board. Bedside ledges take up zero floor space.



**Shelve it** If you lack storage oomph, add it with simple shelving. (These were made with bifold doors.) Decorative suitcases work like drawers on the shelves to conceal items.



**Behind closed doors** In a room without adequate closet space, adapt an armoire to suit your needs. Keep small items tidy in boxes and bins, and stash jewelry on a wire panel attached to the door.



**Tucked in** Outfitted with a daybed, the end of a hallway provides bonus sleeping space. Pull the curtain for privacy. Shelves are a great choice for limited floor space.









## Chapter 4

# smart & savvy work spaces



60



64



68



72



73

work spaces







# something for EVERYONE

Office for mom, art room for kids, and romper place for pups, this reinvented basement space is now the hardest-working room in the house.

**Adding bold color, maximizing space, and including personal touches** turned a dark, underused basement into a bright and cheery office.

Whitewashed pine laminate flooring replaced wall-to-wall beige carpet and white paint covered the beige walls. To pump up the volume, color was added with furniture and accents. A large area rug, made of carpet tiles, introduces the room's palette of turquoise blue, golden yellow, olive green, and chocolate brown. A dynamic layout serves both adult and child needs. The room is divided into zones to smooth the traffic flow, and easy-to-install casters make the furniture movable for more flexibility.

A bench under the window provides storage and a comfy seat for kids and pets. A cabinet stashes the kids' craft supplies. Side-by-side desks line the adjoining wall to create the home

office. The center table connects all the areas, and is the perfect mix of work and play space.

To make the office feel homey, the owner's love of books and typography guided the design. Books are displayed prominently. Framed dust jackets serve as artwork. Printed and framed quotations from *Alice's Adventure in Wonderland* and *Where the Wild Things Are* currently take center stage, but the quotes can be changed whenever inspiration strikes.

Oversize letters made from contact paper become graphic artwork on the walls. A variety of interesting fonts were chosen and printed to scale. **Tip:** You can enlarge letters at the copy store to supersize them. Use the letter as a stencil to cut around on color contact paper (sold online). If you don't want to place the letter directly on your wall, place it on mat board, then frame and hang it instead.

**Multipurpose room** Adjustable furniture is a smart pick in a shared space. The room's center table moves up or down according to the user's needs—short for kid art projects, tall for mom's work needs, *opposite*. **By the letter** Personalize pillows with iron-on transfer paper, *above*. Print an image to the desired size in reverse on the paper (select reverse in the print menu setup), place on pillow, and iron over it.



### Sit a spell

To create a window seat without the expense of built-ins, top a bench with a cushion covered in upholstery-grade fabric, *above*.

### The art of display

When curating a DIY gallery, create a casual, collected look by selecting a mix of media to frame, from old book jackets to fabric and graphic posters, *right*.

diy tip

Need to hide dog fur and kid messes? The bright, fun fabrics in this room are all upholstery-grade, which are designed to take more wear than multipurpose or drapery-weight fabrics. Waterproof, fade-free outdoor fabric is another durable choice.







### Hide and seek

A repurposed console provides storage for art supplies, above. Curtain panels hang on tension rods and hide clutter.

### What they did...

In a space shared by parent and child, nothing can be precious. Carpet squares can easily be changed out in case of spills, above. A painted storage unit is free of doors that can shut on tiny fingers. The kids' craft supplies are kept on lower shelves while adult items are purposely elevated out of reach in mailbox-turned-supply-caddies and on inspiration boards made of framed cork tiles. A slipcover protects the beanbag chair from spills and can be regularly washed clean of finger paint, glue, and dog fur. A pocket bearing an iron-on transfer stores reading material.



work spaces







# so simple, SEW HAPPY

Filled with savvy storage solutions and pretty decorative touches, this hardworking craft room is sure to inspire your creative side.

**In a room designed for everything from sewing and paper crafting** to gift wrapping and computing, it's important to make every inch count. To make the most of limited space, this craft room employs activity-specific zones that allow for easy access.

A closet tricked out with inexpensive stock cabinetry becomes a seamstress's dream space. It offers behind-doors storage for a sewing machine and other tools, and open shelving to display pretty fabric. A new generation of powder-coated magnetic steel pegboard is ultra sleek and creates a tidy resting spot for scissors, ribbon, buttons, and more.

Placed end to end, a duo of inexpensive sideboards creates a long bank of storage for paper-crafting supplies. Clever ideas for corralling stuff abound, from a dish drainer for sewing patterns to candy dishes for ribbon and

other small baubles. Open lower shelves keep kids' art supplies accessible so they can put their imaginations to work.

The room's other furniture pieces were also chosen for their ability to multitask. A buffet is recast as a large desk for sewing, crafting, or computer work. It supplies the room with additional out-of-sight storage. A gate-leg table provides on-demand work space for wrapping gifts as needed.

This creative room isn't all work and no play—it also serves up a big dose of style. A stenciled wall provides a tone-on-tone patterned canvas to accentuate artwork. Punchy purple fabric accents the largely green room. A white upholstered chair gets a sassy slipcover to help it fit the room's palette. A swivel-chair kit transforms the stationary seat into a rolling office chair.

**Supply closet** Convert a closet into an ultimate storage zone, using off-the-shelf components, *opposite*. The easy-to-assemble units and optional add-on drawers and doors make it a snap to design a storage center. **Creative caddies** Keep control of unruly ribbon or other small supplies by using inexpensive kitchen canisters or candy jars to group items by color, *above*.





### What they did...

Don't be afraid to change furnishings—old or new—to suit your needs. A thrift-store buffet with flirty curves was modified to become a sturdy, storage-heavy desk, *above*. A coat of fresh green paint, wallpaper on the doors and drawers, and pretty glass hardware give the buffet a new look. A tabletop made of painted MDF expands the work surface and provides space to showcase fun and functional accessories. Adding a 2-inch riser (also painted white) above the shapely metal legs allows them to support the desktop's overhanging surface.





### Curtain call

Replace restrictive bifold closet doors with pretty curtains, *above*. These vibrant purple tie-top panels visually soften the cabinetry and can be drawn to keep closet contents out of view.

## Storing supplies

Hardworking doesn't mean plain or boring. Try these ideas for organizing supplies with style.

**It's a wrap** This compact gate-leg table is low profile when not in use, yet is a workhorse wrapping or project center when extended, *below*. Drawers hold bows, tags, tapes, and scissors.

**Open sesame** Remove the bottom two drawers of the table to make room for long rolls of wrapping paper.

**Hang it up** Repurpose the drawers as a wall-mounted ribbon dispenser. A dowel installed inside holds spools, which dispense through holes drilled into the drawer. Top the drawer with a shelf for artwork and supplies.

**Old is new** Repurpose vintage finds for clever storage. On the desk, an old chicken feeder with wire inserts provides categorized storage for stationery, *left*.

**Cover up** Elevate basics with simple upgrades. Magazine holders and a paint caddy look special when decoupaged with pretty paper and color-coded with decorative tape, *left*.

**Get the message** Make a memo board from an old vanity mirror or any frame. Cut metal to fit the opening and cover it in paper, *left*.











# double-duty OFFICE

Turn a spare room into a dual-function office and craft space with a few cosmetic updates and some storage solutions.

Converting a small bedroom into a multipurpose work space is a smart way to get maximum function out of your home for minimal money. The transformation in this room started by swapping carpet for vinyl flooring, a durable solution for rooms that get heavy use. Typically used in commercial applications, the easy-to-install boards give the look of wood floors for a fraction of the cost.

With a fresh coat of cheery blue paint, the office was ready for its star player: the desk. Made of walnut-veneer medium-density fiberboard (MDF), the large work surface sits on two legs and a piece of stainless steel, which is bolted to a custom storage cabinet below. A large shelf above the desk provides plenty of space for storing books, magazines, and files, and a variety of interesting containers.

On the opposite wall, a closet becomes a

storage-packed hobby area. Replacing the doors with a pair of curtain panels provides access to valuable extra inches and, when the inside of the closet is painted to match the walls, visually extends the room. Stencil letters add an inspiring message on the wall.

Old filing cabinets are topped with a custom-cut piece of metal to create a storage-packed work surface. Placed on casters, the cabinets become a comfortable countertop height for wrapping gifts. To give the mismatched cabinets a cohesive look, an auto-body shop was hired to apply a powder-coat paint job. Tip: Most shops have a minimum fee, so paint some accessories while you're at it.

Metal pegboard above the cabinets puts all the necessary crafts supplies in one place, while baskets are used to store larger papers and accessories.

**Bright idea** Use a decorative dining chair, colorful containers, and unusual artwork to soften the hard lines of a desk, *opposite*. **Stylish shelf** Above the desk is a matching shelf made from sturdy MDF and veneer. Inexpensive wood shelf brackets, painted white, soften the modern look, *above*.



### Stash the wraps

Create a tool belt for wrapping supplies using a strip of scrap fabric with a hook-and-loop fastener on the back, *above*. Create little pockets to store tags, scissors, stickers, and more.

### Creative containers

Keep your space clutter-free with clever containers, *above left* and *below left*. Use jars for ribbon, boxes for paints, and divided plastic bins for buttons and brads. Metal pails hold color pencils.

### On the wall

Open-sided magazine files are a great place to stash scrapbook papers; the sheets slide without tearing, *below*.

### All the trimmings

A pegboard system can be used in a kitchen, garage, or anywhere that needs organization. In a hobby closet, the hooks and shelves can be rearranged as needed to manage supplies efficiently, *opposite*.





# create

solids

patterns

stripes





## how to create an office that works

Turn any part of your home into an office with storage-smart ideas for efficient organization.

**1. Divide and conquer** When space is limited, zone a section of a larger room (such as a kitchen or a family room) as a work area. Or carve space out of an awkward niche or a closet.

**2. Up the wall** Make the most of your office area by taking storage vertical with wall-mounted cubbies, shelves, magnetic strips, corkboards, and other hardworking tools.

**3. Hidden gems** To keep your work area clutter-free, incorporate as much concealed storage as possible. Drawers and cabinets are functional and don't distract from the surroundings.



**Small but mighty** Shelves decorated with cork circles are functional and artful. A cushion-topped stool provides comfy seating that can be tucked under the desk when not in use. Using bins as drawers adds easy storage.



**Second wind** Don't purchase a pricey desk if you can repurpose an old vanity with a coat of paint. Install shelves above and use coordinating boxes for a tidy look. Clear tubs make top-shelf items easy to find.



**By design** Semicustom cabinetry is an affordable way to turn a small stretch of wall into a built-in desk. Explore design options at a cabinetry store or home center. Or measure your nook and hunt down a ready-made desk to fit.





**A place to create** For a crafting work space, add storage all around. Stock cabinets provide an abundance of drawers, and a pegboard wall offers many options for keeping supplies at your fingertips.



**Corner office** If you're lucky enough to have a large corner or an entire room for an office, a U-shape design will maximize storage and work space. Place the desk near a window to take advantage of natural light.



**Rethink your space** Convert a closet into an inexpensive workstation. Paint the interior of the closet, and add a desk and off-the-shelf storage cubbies. Install a pendant lamp to illuminate the small space.



**No-frills approach** No money or room for a big office? A narrow desk eats up little floor space. The metal wall panel corrals clutter on shelves and in bins in a sliver of space.







# freshly scrubbed laundry & bathrooms



76



80



84



88



93

laundry rooms







# cure your LAUNDRY

Take your utility room from wishy-washy to wow with thrifty ideas crafted from fun colors, custom fabrics, and eye-catching art.

**When tackling laundry, an organized and bright room eases the chore.** At a mere 6×11 feet, this pretty laundry room provides a place for everything while cleverly camouflaging washday essentials. The key to the room's success is the strategic separation of the washer and dryer, which are visually minimized by patterned skirts. The unusual approach frees floor space to maneuver in the small area.

The dryer tucks neatly into a corner, and an adjacent drying rack unfolds from the wall for air-drying delicate clothes under the room's window. A laminate countertop installed 1 inch above the dryer provides a surface for folding and sorting.

The front-loading washing machine is placed for easy access, and laundry supplies are conveniently stored on shelves above.

Floating shelves hold detergent, fabric softener, and cleaning supplies in attractive labeled containers.

Simple add-ons transform a forgettable broom closet near the door into a vertical laundry hamper. With the door removed and shelves installed, labeled laundry baskets are used to sort clothes by color.

Ironing supplies hang neatly on one wall, taking up almost no space. Silhouettes painted on the spring-green wall mimic the shapes of an iron, spray bottle, and ironing board and remind the user to put equipment away. Practical carpet squares on the floor are easy on the feet and can be replaced as needed.

The bright color palette uplifts, while bold fabrics soften the space. As a final flourish, a sparkling chandelier illuminates the room with a touch of glamour.

**Bright idea** Vibrant green paint, fun fabrics, and clutter-catching projects make this laundry room a pleasure to work in and super functional, *opposite*. For a lighthearted touch, oversize laundry icons decorate the walls. **Grab & go** Corral small items in decorative dishware. Keep everything organized by adding colorful labels attached with painted clothespins, *above*.

## diy tip

Splash color onto the legs of an ironing board. Rough up the original paint with sandpaper and wipe with a tack cloth. Coat the metal base with primer; let dry. Spray-paint the legs with several light applications, allowing paint to fully dry between coats.



### What they did...

Match-and-stash silhouettes make it clear where to hang the ironing board, iron, and spray bottle, *above*. Trace the shapes onto the back of repositionable adhesive-back paper. Cut out the shapes and apply them to the wall. Paint the wall, coating the adhesive-back paper, and remove the pieces before the paint is fully dry. Spray-paint a sleek picture ledge and a wall-mounted herb planter to coordinate with the space. Use the ledge to house supplies and turn the planter into an at-hand clothespin caddy.

## diy tip

The low-profile ironing board is mounted on the wall with two basic hooks. Attach the hooks with wall anchors.



1



2



## Streamlined storage

If your laundry piles are high and your room's functionality is low, use these solutions to increase storage.

**1. Out to dry** A wall-mounted drying rack makes the most of a sliver of space under the room's lone window. The rack folds tight against the wall when not in use. Colorful clothespins hold garments in place.

**2. Walls that wow** For big bang without big bucks, create a bold accent wall using repositionable adhesive-back paper cut in a fun pattern, such as these clothespins. The treatment works best when the adhesives are applied over flat, fully cured paint and then painted over.

**3. Lesson learned** Vintage illustrations from an old sewing book become fun artwork when placed in brightly colored frames.

**4. Sort it out** Make the most of a closet by using it as a sorting station. Remove the door, fill any holes with wood putty, and paint the molding to match the space. Use baskets to sort clothes by color.

3



4

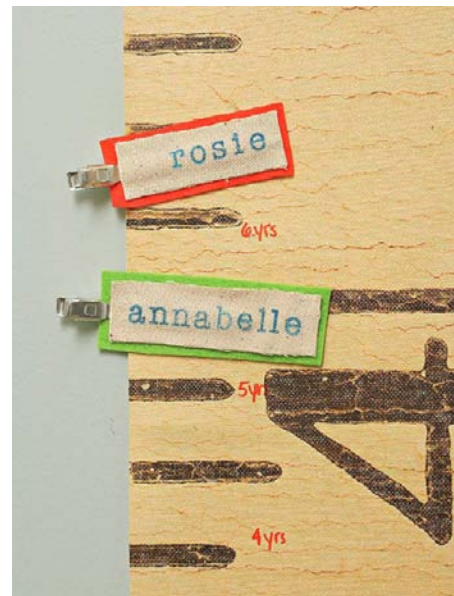




laundry rooms







# little WONDERS

It's hard to beat this laundry room when it comes to performance per square foot. Try some of these space planning ideas at home.

**Laundry rooms are notoriously stingy on square footage**, and this corner utility space is no exception. But what it lacks in space, this utility area more than makes up for in space planning.

An angled cabinet utilizes an awkward corner, creating room for supply storage and a must-have utility sink for rinsing and soaking. The window brightens the room with natural light, but it limits the amount of wall space available for cabinetry and shelving. Gains are made with a stackable washer and dryer. A small cabinet above the appliances goes to the ceiling, adding even more storage. Inexpensive laminate countertop provides an area for folding laundry. Drawers and doors keep cleaning supplies out of view, making the whole room appear tidy.

The best way to expand a laundry room's storage capacity is to take advantage of space

that would otherwise go unused. In less than a day, you can cut into the wall between two studs, add drywall to finish the niche, insert a stock cabinet, and then trim with molding.

Another space-savvy solution in this laundry room is a recessed wall cabinet that conceals a drop-down ironing board. Available at any home improvement center and easy to install, these cabinets take up very little space and not only tuck away a board but usually have room for an iron and small supplies.

To keep laundry from feeling like a chore, use a nature-inspired color palette. Crisp white cabinets are delightful in a small but orderly space. The accents take their color cues from plants, lakes, and sunrises, and fabrics on the windows and floor help soften the utilitarian room.

**Push the limits** For laundry, ironing, memos, and mail, this room makes every inch count, *opposite*. Double-duty designs and wall-busting solutions make this little laundry room live large. **Tall order** Make the most of a narrow slice of wall by crafting a DIY growth chart to track your children's heights, *above*.



### All in the family

Hide a litter box out of sight inside a cabinet, *above*. Kitty can slip in and out of an opening cut in the cabinet door.

### Found space

This space was created by opening up the drywall between studs for shelving, *right*. Four adjustable shelves keep a busy family organized: Mail slots hold magazines, homework, bills, and more. Use a router to make grooves in shelves, then insert vertical dividers.



### What they did...

Stock cabinets accommodate a built-in hamper and provide oodles of storage for detergents, towels, ironing supplies, and pet products.



1



2



## Small-space storage solutions

When space is limited, it helps to have a place for everything and to keep everything in its place.

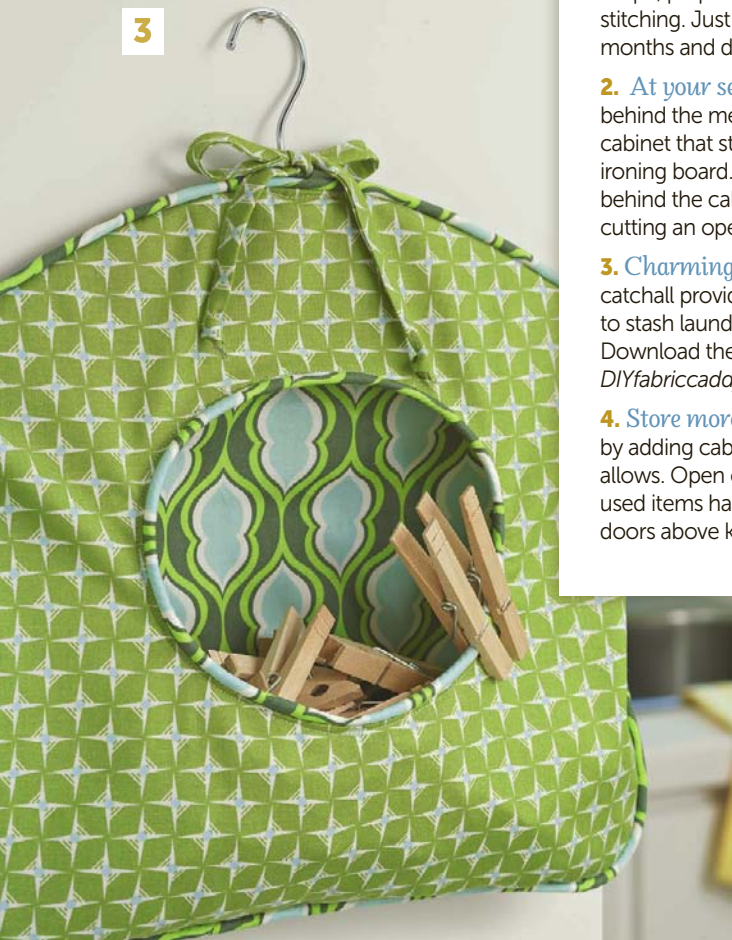
**1. Save the date** This message board is made from a sheet of galvanized metal, cut to fit by a metal fabricator. The calendar is fashioned from scrapbook paper that flaunts a fun shape, preprinted calendar, and stitching. Just stamp or write the months and dates, then hang.

**2. At your service** Concealed behind the memo board is a narrow cabinet that stows a drop-down ironing board. Run an electrical outlet behind the cabinet and access it by cutting an opening in the back.

**3. Charming caddy** A clothespin catchall provides a handy place to stash laundry accessories. Download the pattern at [BHG.com/DIYfabriccaddy](http://BHG.com/DIYfabriccaddy).

**4. Store more** Make every inch count by adding cabinets wherever space allows. Open cubbies keep often-used items handy while baskets and doors above keep clutter at bay.

3



4











# pipe DREAMS

A vanity unit made from pipes and shelves is a budget-friendly way to get a lot of storage without expensive cabinetry.

This fun bathroom gets a bold start with bright yellow walls and graphic gray and white cork floors set in a chevron pattern. The natural cork was treated at the factory with a color coating and protective finish that makes it suitable to a wet application, such as a bathroom. The tiles were also cut into parallelograms at the factory, which minimized the number of cuts required to set the pattern on the floor and wall.

In a bathroom remodel, a big chunk of the budget goes toward cabinetry. To save costs, this wall unit was constructed from galvanized plumbing pipes and fittings. Shelves made from medium-density fiberboard (MDF) provide plenty of storage at little cost. The shelves were painted a glossy white to hold up to bathroom moisture. A facing board on a standard MDF shelf gives the counter visual heft.

One advantage of using pipes and shelves is that it allows you to customize your unit to any amount of wall space. Just measure your space and determine the configuration you want. Purchase one-inch galvanized pipe and ask the hardware store to cut and thread it to your specifications. (Most stores will cut and thread pipe at no charge.)

A simple vessel sink is mounted on the counter. White subway tile is set in stacks for a fresh take on the traditional running bond pattern. Tip: If you can make your shelf the same width as the tiles, you can avoid cutting tiles, which further simplifies the project.

A bright fabric skirt attaches to the shelf with hook-and-loop tape, creating hidden storage for toiletries and cleaning supplies. It removes easily for a quick wash or if you want to change it out for a new look.

**Bright and bold** By using bright colors on the walls and a bold pattern on the floor, basic materials such as subway tile and a vessel sink look anything but plain, *opposite*. **Light the way** In keeping with the theme of the pipe shelves, these sconces were created by running a socket kit through pipe and pipe fittings and hard-wiring it to the wall, *above*.

## DIY 101

Knowing how to install ceramic tile is a DIY skill you'll use over and over again. SEE PAGE 255 TO LEARN HOW.



### On solid ground

Base flanges screwed directly into the floor ensure these shelves are stable, *above*. A bright fabric skirt creates hidden storage.

### Plain and simple

Save money by keeping the core elements in your bathroom simple and white like this sink and tile backsplash, *above left*. Add color with towels and toiletries.

### Up the wall

The chevron pattern of this floor was so interesting, we carried it up the wall, *below left*. It provides some backsplash protection behind the bathtub and adds a lot of punch to the space.

### At the top

No need to line the top flanges up with wall studs; instead, attach them to a piece of wood that is screwed securely to wall studs, *below*.





**DIY  
101**

Warm, graphic cork floor tiles are easy to install.

TURN TO PAGE 253 TO SEE HOW IT'S DONE.











# small bathroom, BIG STYLE

Making a tiny space live large doesn't have to cost a fortune. This bath got a pretty new look without breaking the bank.

**Short on space?** This 5×8-foot-bath **lives large** thanks to some easy solutions that can be re-created on a budget. This remodel started underfoot, with a new ceramic tile floor that gives a luxurious, well-finished look. In a small bathroom, it doesn't take much time to install. (If cost comes into play, check out the great-looking vinyl tiles on the market.)

For a fresh backdrop, beaded board and new paint dress the walls. Bright white off-the-shelf millwork paired with colorful paint makes the cramped space appear larger—and helps accents such as towels and hardware take center stage.

Even in a small bath, the vanity can announce your personality and set the style of the room. Select this piece before choosing the room's other finishes and decor. The focal point in this bathroom is a clean-lined contemporary vanity constructed using pipe found online, a

limestone slab, and an undermount sink. The DIY option was about half the cost of a similar-looking purchased model.

The custom unit includes legs made of 1½-inch chrome tubing and fittings, which cost about \$350. For the vanity top, pick through remnants at a local stone-supply company and find a great deal on a piece of limestone. Including charges to custom cut it, the top cost about \$300.

With no room to add full-size shelves or a freestanding cabinet, a shelving unit was recessed into one wall. A simple wicker basket stashed under the sink holds towels—and brings natural texture to the room's hard surfaces. The towels provide a little extra punch of color in the bright-white bathroom. The shower curtain, window panels, and area rug also help soften the space.

**Bright idea** To allow in light from a bathroom window while protecting privacy, install mini shutters and a café curtain made from a shower curtain cut to size, *opposite*. **Unexpected storage** The bathroom is home to all sorts of small items that need wrangling. For a pretty solution to the problem, store soaps, makeup, jewelry, and the like in a collection of colored glass dishes, *above*.



### On tap

These cross-handle faucets with a modern interpretation work well with the room's cottage feel and the vanity's high-shine legs, *above*.

### Closet case

To create sorely needed storage and preserve every inch of space in a bath, recess a shallow shelving unit into the wall and hide it behind a door fronted in beaded-board paneling, *right*. Adjustable shelves allow for tall bottles and containers. Head-high wainscoting helps blend the unit into the background.

**diy tip** Typically 30–32 inches wide, a door takes up lots of space in a petite bath. Make it shine by replacing a cheap-looking, flat-front, hollow-core door with a paneled model that adds subtle texture and overt character to a small room.





## Head room

To stretch the space and add interest, install head-high wainscoting and top the wall with a warm, happy shade of greenish gold.

### DIY 101

A custom vanity delivers a clean look in a size that's just right for a small bath. SEE PAGE 254 TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE IT.



## how to create family baths

When you run out of room—but not out of stuff—use these clever tricks to solve your storage dilemmas.

1. **Try something different** A small space demands creativity. Use cutlery trays in drawers to organize small toiletries. Store makeup and hair accessories inside a toolbox. Hang a paper-towel holder inside a cabinet door to keep backup rolls of toilet paper handy.
2. **Cut clutter** The easiest way to keep organized is to frequently throw out unused items. Regularly sort through your cabinets to discard expired products or anything you no longer use.
3. **A place for everything** Label shelf dividers or bins to create personal storage spots for each family member.



**Out of reach** Store items used infrequently on a shelf hung above head height. Oversize containers united by a single color maximize storage capacity and keep the look cohesive.



**Linear storage** When floor space is lacking, employ the wall above your toilet for storage. Install a trio of shelves to display containers filled with small essentials. It's also a perfect spot for decorative accessories.



**Reach new heights** Tall pieces offer more storage in limited square footage. If you have the space, create a freestanding hutch as a stand-in for a closet. Top a painted flea market dresser with an upper cabinet.





**Claim lost space** Gain storage without losing space with a cabinet recessed into the wall between studs. (Make the look prettier by lining the back of the cabinet with paper.) Install a shelf above the sink and cut holes for storage cups.



**Mirror, mirror** If your bath doesn't lend itself to a traditional medicine cabinet, get creative and hang a mirror on a window. Add frosting spray or film to the window for privacy. Stash toiletries in bins and baskets on either side.



**Table service** Make up for your pedestal sink's lack of counter space with a little table nestled next to it. Use a basket or tray to keep small items organized.



**Behind doors** Keep a closet organized with a rolling hamper, wine racks for rolled towels, and a lazy Susan for small toiletries. Utilize the back of the door with hooks for grab-and-go buckets of shower essentials.









# trash to treasure furniture makeovers



96



99



102



105



108



## DIY 101

Wood trim and moldings can do more than add detail to the crown of a room or a chair rail on a wall. Use them to dress up furniture and to create interesting, architectural wall solutions. **TURN TO PAGE 168 TO SEE SOME OF OUR FAVORITES.**



## embellished armoire

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Cabinet
- \_Moldings
- \_Miter saw and box
- \_Wood glue
- \_Hammer
- \_Finish nails
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Glaze and rag

This trash-ready farmhouse cabinet becomes a detail-rich armoire with an application of molding.

**1. Make sure the furniture** is stable. Shore up any wobbly construction issues, and square and level the piece.

**2. Lay out moldings** on your cabinet, defining details as we did with the raised panels, or adding detail where there was none. Using a miter saw and miter box, cut crown at 45-degree angles. Use wood glue to attach moldings and rosettes. Secure with finish nails.

**3. Sand and prime the cabinet.** Then paint it a bold shade, such as this sky blue. To give the color depth and accentuate the moldings, rub on glaze with a rag, applying extra glaze to corners and the moldings.



# dresser drop zone

Turn a little dresser into a catchall and keep your mail, gadgets, and keys organized with style.

## YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Dresser
- \_Wallpaper and adhesive
- \_Screwdriver
- \_Screws
- \_Shelf brackets

**1. Be sure the furniture** is sturdy. Shore up any problem areas. Tip: You can level a dresser by shortening the leg length.

**2. Make good use** of damaged areas. This little dresser was missing a drawer. Instead of building a replacement, use the open space as a bookcase or display niche. Cover the interior with durable wallpaper, and screw in decorative shelf brackets as dividers.

**3. Retrofit a drawer** with an electrical strip for charging cell phones and gadgets out of sight.



## feeding table

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Chair or bench
- \_ Stainless-steel bowls with a lip
- \_ Jigsaw
- \_ Sandpaper
- \_ Tack cloth
- \_ Primer and paintbrush
- \_ Paint
- \_ Polyurethane

A two-seater bench raises food and water dishes to a comfortable feeding height for large dogs.

1. **Measure the diameter** of your pet's food and water bowls and draw the pattern onto the seat. The lip of the bowl will hold the bowls in place once they are set into the chair. Measure the inside diameter of the bowls to get the right fit.
2. **Cut out the circles** on the seat with a jigsaw. Sand rough edges and check the fit of the bowls. Adjust as necessary.
3. **Sand the entire piece** of furniture. Wipe with a tack cloth. Prime; let dry. Paint with a low-volatile organic compound (VOC) paint; let dry. Sand lightly and wipe with a tack cloth. Paint a second coat; let dry. Add a coat of polyurethane. Set the bowls into the seat.







before

## kitchen cart

Imagine an outdated piece of furniture in a new way. This bedside table is now a smart kitchen cart.

- 1. Remove hardware** and fill holes with putty. Let dry. Rough up the surface with sandpaper; wipe clean with a tack cloth. Prime; let dry.
- 2. Paint the table** and let dry. Lightly sand and wipe clean with a tack cloth before adding a second coat.
- 3. Attach casters for mobility** and new hardware to complete the look. Drill new holes and attach a drawer pull. The shelves are perfect for holding linens and dishes you want on display. And the drawer can stash take-out menus or unsightly items.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Table
- \_Screwdriver
- \_Putty
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer, paint, brush
- \_Casters
- \_Drill
- \_Drawer hardware

## YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Table
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Primer
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_L brackets
- \_Screws
- \_Drill

## stacked sideboard

Trim a table into a low-profile buffet for the dining room.

1. **A little reconfiguring turns** a rectangular Parsons table into a handy buffet. Measure your desired depth, then saw the table into two pieces of equal depth. Shorten the legs so that when stacked, the table stands at your desired height.
2. **Sand, prime, and paint the table** to work with your color scheme. Attach the table pieces to the wall using brackets.
3. **Outfit the table** with accessories that add function or storage, such as this wineglass holder.

### DIY 101

If you don't have a rectangular table that will work for this project, you can make a console table using a length of wood and a pair of shelf brackets. **TURN TO PAGE 200 TO SEE HOW.**





photo a



photo b



## folding screen

Nailhead embellishments dress up a folding screen.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Trifold screen
- \_Masking tape and paper
- \_Pattern
- \_Compass
- \_Awl
- \_Hammer
- \_Drill and bits
- \_Nailheads

**1. Trace a simple design**, such as this scroll, on paper, then tape it to the folding screen. Open the compass to the desired spacing increment and lock its legs into place. Walk the compass around the design, gently pushing the ends into the paper to leave marks—these will guide you in the next step.

**2. Place the awl** on each mark. Use the hammer and awl to punch a hole into the surface of the wood, continuing around the design (a).

**3. Drill at awl points** on the screen about ¼ inch deep, using a very small drill bit and the holes as guides (b). Make sure not to drill through the screen and to keep the drill at a 90-degree angle. Push the nailheads into the drilled holes. Use a hammer if you can't push them in all the way.



**diy tip** Purchase the proper hardware for securing your piece on the wall. Specialty hangers are available for almost everything, including heavy items.



**YOU'LL NEED:**

- \_Cabinet
- \_MDF
- \_Table saw
- \_Sandpaper and tack cloth
- \_Primer, paint, and paintbrush
- \_Photo image
- \_Hinges
- \_Nails

## key cabinet

Make a picture-perfect key cubby from an old medicine cabinet.

- 1. Remove and measure** the door. Cut a piece of medium-density fiberboard (MDF) to these dimensions. This will become the new door. Prime and paint the MDF.
- 2. Find a favorite image** and enlarge it to the desired size. Have it plaque-mounted, or laminated, to the MDF.
- 3. Sand, prime, and paint** the frame of the medicine cabinet, then install the new door. Use nails as quick key hooks.



**YOU'LL NEED:**

- \_Table
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrushes
- \_Tack cloth
- \_Painter's tape

## Painted Picnic Table

Dress a plain wooden picnic table in bright, sunny stripes.

**1. Sand and prime the table, then apply** a couple of coats of paint in your desired base coat. Lightly sand and wipe with a tack cloth. Measure and tape stripes with painter's tape. (Diminishing stripes are a happy surprise along the tabletop.)

**1. Once you've determined** your design, paint inside the tape lines. Remove tape just before the paint dries to reveal straight edges. The paint should still be tacky when you remove the tape.





div tip

If you learn to look beyond what something is and imagine what it could be, you'll be able to have your cake and eat it, too. When dealing with projects that will hold food, make smart choices. We recommend putting any edibles on a clear plate and resting the plate within the cake stand to keep food safe.

before



## YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Two-tier table
- \_Saw
- \_Wood candleholder
- \_Drill and screw
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush

## cake stand

Elevate sweet treats with a dessert stand that started as a thrift-store staple: a two-tier side table.

1. **Cut away** the pretty scalloped top of the table.
2. **Attach the top** to a new base—a wood candleholder. Drill a pilot hole through the scalloped top and into the candleholder. Attach with a long screw through the top of the tray.
3. **Sand, prime, and paint** both pieces a delicious shade of pink. Shimmery gold paint highlights the top of the cake stand.



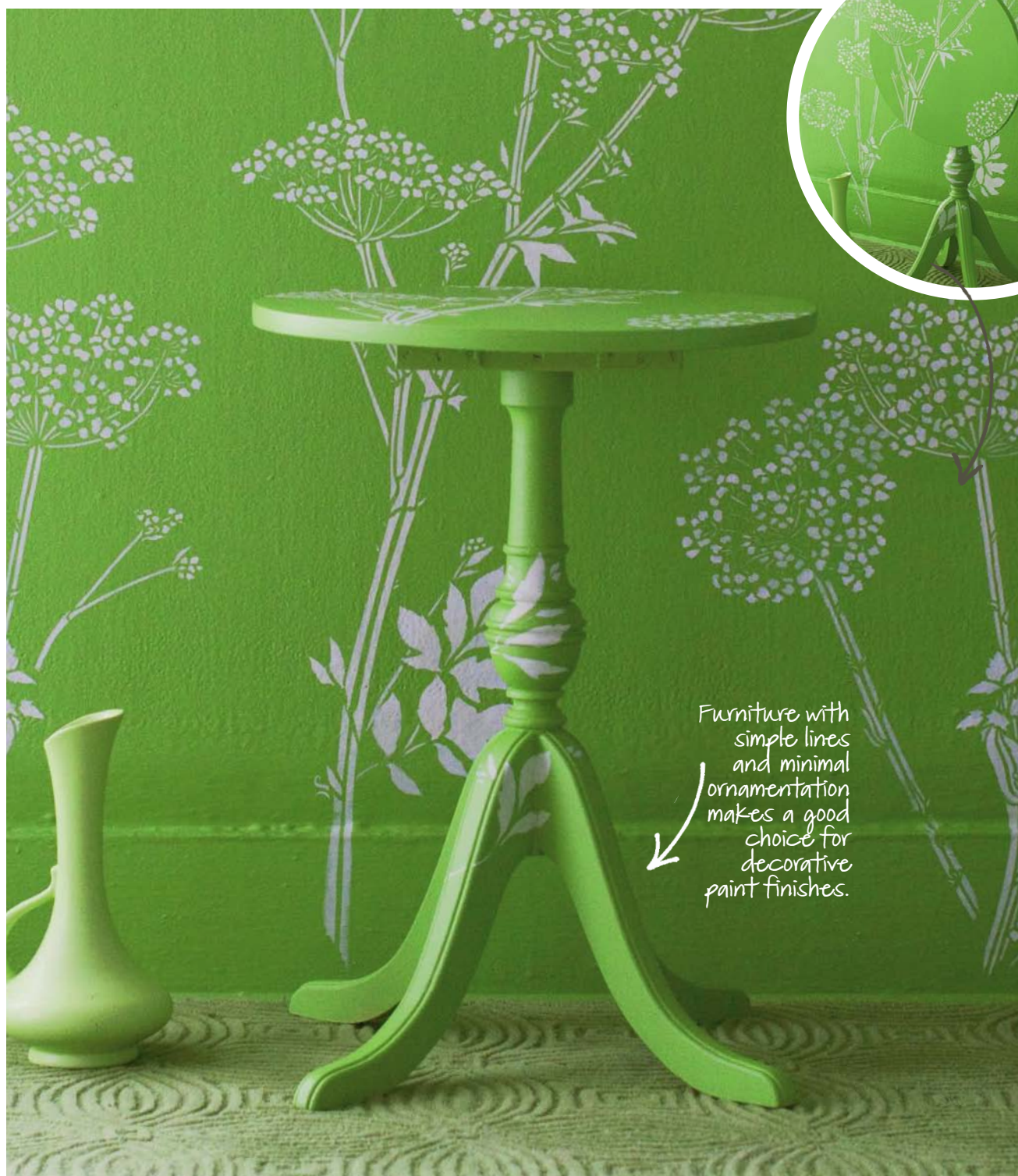
**YOU'LL NEED:**

- \_Table
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Stencil
- \_Pouncer
- \_Crafts paint
- \_Polyurethane

## stenciled table

This tilt-top table was cleverly painted to disappear into the wall when the top is folded down.

1. **Sand the table** to rough up the existing finish. Wipe with a tack cloth. Prime and let dry.
2. **Paint the base coat** the same color as your wall; let dry. Sand lightly and wipe with a tack cloth. Add a second coat of paint and let it dry.
3. **Position the table** where you like it along the wall. Next, position the stencil on the furniture so that it aligns with the wall pattern. Load a pouncer with crafts paint and paint the design. Remove the stencil and let dry. Seal the design with a coat of water-base polyurethane.







**diy tip** If the original finish of metal furniture is in bad shape, consider removing the finish and restoring with a rust-inhibiting primer and fresh paint job.

before



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Desk
- \_All-purpose cleaner
- \_Planter box and drawer
- \_Drill
- \_Drawer pull
- \_Woodburning tool
- \_Crafts paint and brushes

## plant stand

Reading, writing, and repurposing? This vintage school desk was turned—quite literally—on its head.

- 1. Clean an old desk** with an all-purpose cleaner to remove grime.
- 2. Buy or make** a planter box to fit between the desk legs. Find or build a second wood box that will fit in the desk opening. Add a drawer pull.
- 3. Finish the box and drawer** with design details to personalize the project. We used a woodburning tool to add a folk art-inspired motif on the front and sides. Crafts paint adds a pop of color.



# painted dresser

Give a drab dresser a lesson in geometry with a painted finish.

1. **Shop for an old dresser** with interesting features. The turned wood detail on the front and the scalloped base made this a special choice. Remove drawers and hardware.
2. **Give the dresser a fresh coat** of paint. Start with a light sanding to rough up the existing finish. Wipe with a tack cloth. Apply primer and let dry. Then brush a few coats of blue paint on the dresser frame and light gray paint on the drawer fronts. Let dry. Paint the hardware the same color as the dresser.
3. **Measure the drawers** to determine the number and placement of your stenciled squares. Make your own stencils from painter's tape by cutting the lengths necessary to create squares in your desired size. Adhere the tape stencils to the dry drawer fronts. Coat the drawers with the blue paint used on the frame. Remove stencils when the paint is still tacky. Reattach hardware.

## YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Dresser
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint in two colors
- \_Paintbrushes
- \_Painter's tape





diy tip

Many pieces of furniture have extra parts that can easily be removed. This table was originally a Mission-style console with three wooden stiles on each end. Removing them simplified the frame and sparked numerous design inspirations.

#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Table
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer and paint
- \_Paintbrushes
- \_Fabric or café curtain
- \_Ribbon
- \_Tension rods

## console table

A traditional, unfinished console table now looks right at home as a breakfast buffet fit for a country cottage.

1. **Sand, prime, and paint** the table. Add a pretty knob to the drawer.
2. **Use store-bought** café curtains or make your own by sewing a rod pocket in fabric. Embellish with a ribbon or a strip of scrap fabric. Hang the curtains between the table legs using tension rods.
3. **Consider embellishing the top** with a different finish. Options include painting it a different color, staining, and decorative painting. This tabletop receives its shimmer from an application of silver leaf.





## refreshed chair

It's easy to update a classic chair that wears an outdated finish. Try your hand at this seat conversion.

**1. Remove the existing seat** by flipping the chair upside down and unscrewing the seat from the frame. Find a pretty fabric to re-cover the seat. (For this makeover, we crocheted a bold chevron pattern.) Position the new seat cover. Wrap fabric to bottom and attach with a staple gun.

**2. Freshen the finish** by prepping for a new coat of paint. Sand the existing finish to rough it up. Wipe with a tack cloth. Prime the chair; let dry. Coat with a pretty paint color and let dry. Sand lightly, wipe with a tack cloth, and add a second coat. Let dry.

**3. Position the seat** on the chair. Turn the chair upside down and reattach the seat with screws.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Chair
- \_Screwdriver
- \_Fabric
- \_Staple gun
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush







## Chapter 7

# *make it personal* accents



118



122



130



133



141

how to create

## silhouette statements

Wake up your home with this classic decorating project. Ours, *right*, are cut from crafts foam that costs just \$2 a sheet.

**1. Pose your dear ones** sideways in front of a white backdrop such as a bedsheet or wall, then photograph their image. Tip: If using a sheet, position a light source behind it for sharp contrast.

**2. Print the image** in a size that fits your frame and your foam sheet. Cut out and trace the image onto the foam. Foam provides a slight shadow line and depth, or you can use thick paper and bump up the art with self-adhesive furniture protector pads.

**3. Cut the foam**, and adhere the image to a mat or colorful paper.

**4. Set the mat** into a frame that shows off the silhouette. For a more traditional look, use black and white and display in a gilded frame.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Camera
- \_Bedsheet or white wall
- \_Printer
- \_Foam sheet
- \_Crafts knife
- \_Frame and mat

**DIY  
101**

Want to make a herd of Desktop Labels animals to corral a messy desk?

SEE PAGE 260 FOR PATTERNS.







**Artwork** Let objects with shapely bodies be your muse. Group the finished silhouette designs in a theme arrangement, such as vases or beverage service pieces, hanging them salon style.



**Wall stencil** Abandon the idea that silhouette always means cut paper. Here it's an eye-popping wall stencil that uses positive and negative space and one color on the wall.



**Desktop labels** A family of folded paper animal silhouettes—each with press-on letters that define a task—helps organize a messy desk.



**Wood-grain art** For this effect, trace designs onto wood-look adhesive shelf liner. Cut pieces of liner to fit the background boards of the frames. Peel and stick or use glue.



how to create

## decoupage details

Decoupage decor will cheer up any corner on the cheap. A collage of cutouts and a few coats of sealer are all you need.

**1. Find the art** for your project.

We selected floral designs for this entryway sourced from vintage seed catalogs and prints, *right*.

**2. Copy images** onto quality paper and cut out using scissors. Arrange images on the wall, holding them in place with painter's tape until you find a pleasing arrangement.

**3. Apply matte** decoupage medium to the back of each cutout. Affix the cutout to the wall. Use your fingers to smooth out any bubbles trapped under the image. Start from the center of the image and work toward the edges. Roll over the image with a brayer or squeegee to ensure a flat finish, being careful not to tear the design. Add topcoat of decoupage medium.

**YOU'LL NEED:**

- \_Images
- \_Painter's tape
- \_Matte decoupage medium
- \_Paintbrush (small)
- \_Brayer or squeegee

### DIY 101

Don't have time to troll through thrift stores for old images? The

Graphics Fairy ([GRAPHICSFAIRY.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://GRAPHICSFAIRY.BLOGSPOT.COM)) is a treasure trove of vintage images you can print.







**Lampshade** Upgrade the shade on a table lamp by applying the same iron-on technique used on the throw pillows, *right*. For a paper shade, apply cutouts with decoupage medium.



**Throw pillow** Punch up a pair of pillows with iron-on appliqué. Our favorite is Purple Chimp Print & Iron Sheets. These 100-percent cotton sheets with a fusible backing can be printed from your ink-jet printer.



**Art** Showcase your snipping skills by decouping an oversize art mat. We layered a page from a gardening guide with both black-and-white and color paper cutouts.



**Dresser** Photocopy images onto high-quality paper and cut out the designs. Soak the paper in hot, clean water until the edges slightly curl. Brush a coat of decoupage medium on the dresser and affix the image. Let dry. Add topcoat.

## how to create ribbon accents

Why let gifts get all the glory? Elevate ribbons from packaging pretties to dramatic decor with these simple no-sew techniques.

**1. Figure how much** ribbon you have to work with and plan your design before you start. You can get a lot of mileage from a little ribbon with creative thinking. Use short lengths to dress up artwork or to wrap around the base of a lamp or vase. Longer lengths can add impact to tables or window treatments, *right*.

**2. Attach ribbon** using Sealah tape (available at [jodeesinc.com](http://jodeesinc.com)), a double-sided, pressure-sensitive adhesive that works like glue without the mess. Attach Sealah tape to the ribbon before applying to the project. Unlike glue, this acid- and lignin-free tape will not yellow over time, making it a good choice for upholstery and other decorator fabric projects.

**3. For fabrics** that will receive a lot of use (and frequent washing), secure the ribbon with machine stitching.

### YOU'LL NEED:

\_ Ribbon

\_ Sealah tape







**Side table** A linear table makes a strong statement in an entry or hall. The straight lines of the table make it a natural candidate to trim with bold lengths of ribbon.



**Napkin** Make a custom table setting using ribbons to embellish napkins, place mats, and table runners. Sealah tape adheres well and is washable.



**Lampshade** A plain lampshade is a perfect canvas for ribbons. We cut short lengths of ribbon (2–4 inches) and attached them to the shade at random intervals with Sealah tape. This is a fun way to get a lot of style from ribbon scraps.



**Upholstery** Use ribbon pieces to refresh a shapely wing chair on the seat, arms, or back. Mix it up to show off your personal style.

how to create

## glass effects

Turn thrift store glassware into inspired party items by etching and painting clear glass.

**1. Cover your work surface** to protect it from spills. Pour a small amount of enamel ceramic/glass paint into the bottom of a clean and dry clear glass vase.

**2. Hold the vase** in your hands and tip it until the paint rolls around the inside, creating waves of color. (You can add more paint if you want to make larger areas of color.) Tilt in different directions and leave some of the vase clear for interesting contrast. Let excess paint dry in the bottom of the vase. For added detail, use an oil-base paint marker to doodle tiny flowers on the outside of the vase. Let dry.

**3. Insert a smaller** clear vase to hold water and fresh flowers inside your painted glass vase.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Clear glass vase
- \_Enamel ceramic/glass paint
- \_Oil-base paint marker







**Bud vase** Apply decorative stickers to act as a mask on clear glass before spreading etching cream to cover the design. Leave the cream on for the instructed time, then rinse with water. Accent with glass paint if desired.



**Cake stand** Combine a footed glass dish with a plate for a treat stand that takes the cake. Coat the glass with frosted-glass spray paint. Avoid painting areas that will touch food. Epoxy the footed glass to the plate bottom.



**Party favor** Using letter stickers, spell out a name or fun word on a glass. Tape around the top and bottom of the name to get a clean line. Use a pouncer brush to dab acrylic paint lightly over the letters. Let dry and remove stickers.



**Mercury glass vase** Give a clear glass vase the look of mercury glass. Spritz the inside with water. While the interior is still wet, spray it with a coat of Krylon Looking Glass spray paint. Let dry; spray a second coat of paint.

how to create

## painted glass & ceramics

Let ceramics and glass stand in for canvas the next time you pick up a paintbrush or paint marker. This piece of art, *right*, starts with a floating photo frame.

1. Take the glass panes out of the frame and separate them. Mask off stripes on the back of both glass panes using painter's tape, paying attention to how the stripes will overlap.
2. Dip a small foam roller in glass paint and roll on the back of each pane. Peel off the tape to reveal your stripes. Reassemble the frame after the paint dries.
3. Insert a photo between the glass panes. Tip: A black-and-white photo won't compete with your paint effects. If you have a favorite color photo, scan it, then print the image in black and white.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Floating glass photo frame
- \_Painter's tape
- \_Foam roller
- \_Glass paint
- \_Small paint tray







**Lamp** Brighten a lamp base with delicate doodles. Draw simple spirals and interlocking paisley or flower patterns with a white oil-base paint marker. Start at the top and work your way down for best results.



**Coasters** Create a quartet of coasters using free clip art. Print images. Transfer the design to tile using carbon paper or by rubbing the back of the image with a pencil and tracing on the front. Use a thin paintbrush and porcelain paint to finish.



**Organizers** Use a porcelain paint pen to repeat a simple circle chain pattern on each dish. The cohesive, modern design and color scheme unify the pieces.



**Drinkware** Attach stickers to the glassware. Use a foam brush to apply white paint over the labels and up the outside of the glassware for a faux frosted look. Peel stickers off while the paint is still wet.



## how to create wood decor

Those wood scraps in your home center's cast-off bin are actually decorative gems in disguise.

**1. Create custom artwork** by using a wood block to make a stamp, *right*. The softer the wood, the better: Basswood is best, while pine is usable, too. If you want a distinct wood texture in your print, look for a rough stretch of wood; for smooth, clean prints, find a smooth block.

**2. Draw your design** on the block or transfer it via carbon paper, then use cutting tools to carve away the negative space. Tip: Words need to be carved backward. Always push your carving tool away from your hands and body.

**3. After carving**, use a brayer to spread paint or ink over the design, then stamp the block on a piece of paper cushioned by a dish towel (the give of the towel enables you to make an even print). After pressing down for a few seconds, hold the paper immobile and lift the block straight up. Let dry and frame the print as desired.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Wood block
- \_Carbon paper
- \_Cutting tools
- \_Brayer
- \_Ink or paint
- \_Paper







**Coasters** Use a chop saw or handsaw plus a miter block to make straight cuts down a block to create coasters of various thicknesses. Sand the edges and corners and apply a coat of natural wood stain and sealer. Attach bumpers to the bottom.



**Wall art** Cast-off bits and pieces from the lumberyard become modern wall art with quick coats of paint. Arrange wood blocks on the floor before hanging them on the wall using picture-hanging hardware.



**Hooks** Add stature to a plain garment hook by using a scrap of wood to build it out. Wrap the block with a thin piece of sheet metal, gluing metal to the wood. Attach the hook.



**Pencil holder** Start with a length of 4x4-inch wood. Cut the base at a funky angle, and drill pencil holes using a 1/2-inch bit. Sand and paint the top. Wrap the base in decorative paper; coat with decoupage medium.

## how to create painted finishes

A can of paint is a budget-minded DIYer's best friend. Here, we show you a few of the many surfaces you can refurbish with paint.

**1. Every surface** accepts a painted finish a little differently, so you'll want to gather as much information as possible about your project before you begin. As a general rule, you'll need to apply a primer or rough up the base of what you're painting with sandpaper so a new coat of paint will adhere to it. Wipe with a tack cloth.

**2. Spray-paint** is a great choice for painting wicker, such as this chair, *right*. Apply a primer first.

**3. Choose the application**—brush, roller, or spray—that works best for your project. After the first coat is dry, sand lightly. Add a second coat.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Brushes
- \_Primer
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Paint

### DIY 101

TURN TO PAGE 240 to find out how to paint anything, including floors, walls, fabric, floorcloths, furniture, and so much more!







**Faux bois** Create a wood-grain look using a special wood-graining tool from the crafts store. Paint the base coat, and let dry. Apply a glaze coat and drag the tool through the glaze to create the pattern.



**Silhouette stickers** Add a base coat of primer. Apply stickers (or make your own designs on sticky-back label paper and cut out) to a ceramic plate. Spray-paint over the stickers; let dry. Remove stickers to reveal a graphic pattern.



**Masking** Apply strips of masking tape to a fabric pillow cover, and roll over the surface with fabric paint to create subtle stripes. The yellow flower stencil was added after the masked lines had dried and the tape was removed.



**Stamping** Purchase rubber and foam stamps at crafts stores or make your own. Use a foam roller to apply a small amount of crafts paint to the surface of the stamp. Press the stamp to the surface; let dry.



how to create

## wood projects

Making these projects requires surprisingly few tools and entry-level skills. Try one of these five easy accents that feature a single board, or a few twigs.

**1. Size your project** to fit your home or duplicate our dimensions to make the bench, *right*. From a 6½-foot 2x12-inch board, cut a 44-inch top and two 14½-inch legs. Tip: Home centers will make a few cuts for free or for a minimal charge. Sand edges smooth.

**2. Secure the legs** to the seat by screwing through a 2x2-inch cleat below the bench top, abutting each leg.

**3. To put a “smile”** on the bench’s face, print letters from your computer and tape them to the bench surface. Use a small bit to drill through the paper, making shallow, evenly spaced holes outlining each letter. Protect your final project with a coat of clear polyurethane.

### YOU’LL NEED:

\_2x12-inch board, 6½ feet

\_Table or miter saw

\_2 cleats

\_Drill

\_Screws

\_Sandpaper

\_Polyurethane

\_Paintbrush



**div tip** Finish projects with a coat of water-base polyurethane to protect your project. (Oil-base polyurethane looks yellow.)





**Mirror** Glue and clamp eight lengths of 1x6-inch cypress to form a rectangle. Trace a pattern on one side of the rectangle and cut out with a jigsaw. When cutting the center, drill a starter hole and insert the jigsaw blade. Sand edges smooth.



**Vases** Notch salvaged boards to fit together and accommodate cylindrical bud vases. When sizing the notches for the vases, add  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch to the diameter measurement so you can easily slip the vase into the notch.



**Hall tree** Start with a 7-foot 1x12-inch board. Draw a notch pattern staggered along each edge. Use a jigsaw to cut out notches. Secure three of the cutouts as hooks with wood glue and a 2½-inch screw through the back of the board.



**House numbers** Make your own house numbers using twigs. Spray-paint a store-bought plaque a cheery color. Snip twigs and hot-glue them to the plaque.



## how to create papier- mâché

If you think papier-mâché is just for grade-schoolers, think again. We show you how to raid the recycling bin for materials to make chic, unique, and free artwork.

**1. Shape an animal head**, such as the deer, from a foam block using a crafts knife, *right*. Tear scrap paper into strips. Newspaper is ideal: It's soft and thin, so it molds easily. Thicker brown kraft paper also works and creates a strong finished sculpture.

**2. Mix 4 parts white glue** to 1 part water in a bowl. This mixture makes strongly bonded projects that can be sanded, cut, and drilled like wood.

**3. Soak the strips** of paper in the glue mixture and run them through your fingers to remove excess glue before applying the strips to your carved foam. Let each layer of glue and paper dry before adding the next layer. When dry, the three-dimensional shapes can be finished with paint. We mounted our head on a decorated plaque.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Foam block
- \_Crafts knife
- \_Newspaper
- \_White glue
- \_Bowl
- \_Paint supplies

**DIY 101** Some projects, such as the bowl project, are made from a mixture of paper pulp and glue. To learn how to make paper pulp, **TURN TO PAGE 243.**







**Bowl** Spray a gelatin or cake mold with nonstick cooking spray. Add a glue-and-water mixture to paper pulp. Press the pulp into the mold; let dry. Carefully remove the dried bowl from the mold and paint.



**Vase** Turn a syrup or ketchup bottle into a monogrammed display piece. Cut off the bottle top; cover the bottle in papier-mâché; let dry. Glue a chipboard letter to the bottle and add another layer of papier-mâché. Paint when dry.



**Bangle bracelet** Use paper scraps and a cardboard tape roll to create a bangle. Cut strips of art papers; dip in glue mixture and cover the tape roll; let dry. When dry, spray with two coats of sealer.



**Beaded tieback** Shape balls of papier-mâché around a plastic cord; let dry. Use a natural paint palette to color the balls to create an earthy look. Tie around curtain panels.

## how to create

## paper art

Give old or damaged books a storybook ending with projects that up-cycle pages into paper pretties for your home.

**1. Gather books** with soft, worn pages—the older, the better. Tip: Shop your local book fair on the last day when old books are usually free for the taking (and you're saving them from the trash bin). Use a crafts knife to cut the binding, and gently remove the pages from the book cover.

**2. To make** a paper table runner, *right*, lay the pages flat on the floor in the length and width you'd like. Make sure the runner is long enough to drape over the table.

**3. On the back**, carefully secure the pages with clear adhesive tape. Use a decorative-edge punch from the crafts store to create a border that suits your style.

## YOU'LL NEED:

\_Old book

\_Crafts knife

\_Tape

\_Decorative-edge punch







**Frame** Repurpose a book with a beautiful cover but damaged pages into a frame for a favorite photo. Using a crafts knife, cut a rectangle from the front of the book and mount a photo inside the cover.



**Garland** Accordion-fold an aged book page. Fold in half and trim the ends into a curve. Repeat with a second page. Using string, tie the two folded pages together at the center and glue the ends to form a circle. Embellish flower center.



**Flowers** Paint book pages in a watercolor wash (mix watercolor paint with water). Let dry. Cut petal shapes from the paper. Form flower shapes from paper and secure with glue; insert florist's wire into the bottom of the bloom.



**Art** Book pages become a graphic background for silhouettes of iconic kitchen elements. Trim book pages and send them through your ink-jet printer to print the silhouette.

how to create

## photo transfer

Grab your camera, head outdoors, and let nature be your muse for these simple and elegant transfer projects.

**1. Print your photo** on Lazertran paper (find it at art stores or [lazertran.com](http://lazertran.com)), making sure the image prints on the chalky eggshell side. Let it dry for 30 minutes.

**2. Cut out the image**, removing excess Lazertran paper. Soak the printout facedown in a pan of water for about a minute. Peel off the backing and place the filmy image on a ceramic vase, smoothing out air bubbles as you work, *right*.

**3. Once dry**, the white in the photo will show. If you want it to be clear, paint one to three coats of polyurethane over the image.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Lazertran paper
- \_Shallow pan
- \_Polyurethane
- \_Brush



diy tip

Use your printer and different types of transfer paper to embellish everything from fabric to furniture.





**Throw pillow** Print your image on iron-on transfer paper. Trim the printout and lay it facedown on a cotton pillowcase. Iron, pressing hard and moving the iron constantly. Do not steam. Once the image transfers, slowly peel off the backing.



**Chair** Print your image on Lazertran paper; let dry for 30 minutes. Cut around the image and soak in water for about a minute, then peel off the backing and adhere to the chair seat. Seal with polyurethane.



**Pencil cup** Print your images on Lazertran paper and let dry for 30 minutes. Cut your image to the size of one panel, then soak the printout facedown in water about a minute. Peel off backing and place on the cup. Smooth out bubbles.



**Art** Print an image on an overhead transparency. Cover the surface of a blank art canvas with a thin coat of gel medium. Place the transparency ink-side down on the gel medium and burnish it with a spoon. Peel off the transparency.



how to create

## wallpaper treatments

Don't toss that scrap of wallpaper. Add it to flea market furniture and accessories for a low-cost splash, *right*. Each of these projects uses a single roll or less.

**1. Get the paper wet.** For prepasted paper, loosely roll up a strip with the adhesive side out and immerse it in a wallpaper trough or bucket filled with water. (Check manufacturer's directions for specifics.) Make sure the paper is completely wet before removing it from the trough.

**2. Activate the adhesive** by unrolling the paper, pattern side down, and booking the ends (or rest the glue-covered sides on themselves). This takes a few minutes.

**3. Position the wallpaper** on the surface, sticky side down. You'll have some working time to reposition the paper.

**4. Use a sponge** to smooth the paper, then follow up with a putty knife or seam roller to remove any air bubbles. Wipe any adhesive off the wallpaper. Use a crafts knife and metal ruler to trim the paper.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Prestaped wallpaper
- \_Wallpaper trough or bucket
- \_Thick sponge
- \_Wide putty knife
- \_Crafts knife
- \_Metal ruler (or other edge)







**Dresser** We used floral wallpaper to rejuvenate a tired dresser, and the lampshade project was a snap. Cut paper slightly larger than the shade. Adhere, pressing firmly to smooth wrinkles. Slice off the excess with a crafts knife.



**Headboard** Make a statement headboard for just a few dollars. Cut an interesting shape from plywood, then adhere a graphic prepasted wallpaper for a bold look.



**Accent wall** Use bits and strips of wallpaper to create a patchwork wall. Cut papers into blocks (a metal ruler or T square, crafts knife, and self-healing mat make it easy). Adhere large sections to the wall first, then smaller pieces.



**Art** Create an art wall using wallpaper or art paper scraps. Pick up inexpensive wood plaques at the crafts store, then prime and paint. Trace the shape onto wallpaper, cut out, and adhere paper to the plaques with wallpaper glue.

## how to create stitched crafts

Add dimension—and lots of personality—with these yarn or embroidery floss projects.

**1. Prep the surface.** If you're going to rehab an old piece of furniture, freshen it up with a coat of paint first. The wardrobe received oversize letters cut from contact paper, *right*. Make sure your base design is complete before you drill holes for a yarn design.

**2. Sketch the design** on paper to work out the details of your project. Transfer the finished design to the furniture using a pencil.

**3. Drill the holes** into the wood. If your embroidery design calls for curves, you'll need more holes. If you have longer, straighter lines, you can get away with using fewer holes.

**4. Start stitching.** Thread a darning needle with yarn and knot the end. Stitch through the drilled holes to complete your design. Add felted flowers made from wool roving. (Turn to page 244 to learn how to make them.) Let your creativity inform the design.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Cabinet
- \_Drill
- \_Darning needle
- \_Yarn
- \_Wool roving

### DIY 101

TURN TO PAGE 243 for our embroidery stitch sampler with six beginner stitches you can use to enhance wood, fabric, and more.







**Chair** An ugly duckling chair is rethought with a bold wash of orange paint and flower embellishments stitched on with yarn. The free-form flowers are made with cotton fabric, and the leaves are a no-fray imitation suede.



**Pillow** Create flowers from old wool sweaters. (Felt the sweaters first by washing them in hot water so they won't fray.) Cut flower shapes and secure using French knots, then sew stems using a running stitch.



**Headboard** Look online for inspiration. The middle image in this three-panel headboard was downloaded for free. The flower patterns on the sides were extrapolated from the middle flower and embroidered on fabric before installing.



**Art** Make a wall display using inexpensive wooden serving trays. Spray trays with vibrant hues, drill holes, then embroider fun imagery using basic stitches.



## how to create custom lighting

Get creative and liven up your living space with these bright lighting ideas made from everyday finds.

**1. Give your found object** an instant update with spray paint, as we did with some of these projects, *right*. Bonus: The cord from the light kit is paintable!

**2. Flip the item over** to find what will become the top of the pendant. Find the center using a ruler. Place the fixture kit at the center and trace around the socket.

**3. Depending on what** your pendant shade is made of—we used a basket, a metal bucket, and a fruit basket—use wire cutters, an awl and chisel, or a cordless drill with a hole saw drill bit to cut through the center where marked.

**4. Slip the socket** through the top of the hole and screw the socket ring on from the opposite side.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Shade (found object)
- \_Spray paint
- \_Light kit
- \_Ruler
- \_Cutting tools

**diy tip**

If the weight of the finished fixture is too much for the cord, switch to a more supportive wire or add a chain.







**Kitchen utensil holder** A cylindrical metal tin with an intricate cut pattern will put on a pretty light show every time you turn on the light.



**Water bottle** A glass water bottle is fitted with a nightlight bulb for a low-wattage pendant. Use one as an accent, or hang several in a cluster for a bolder look.



**Hat** If you're using a hat or basket, mix 5-Minute Epoxy part A resin with part B hardener in a 1:1 ratio. Paint the mixture on top and allow it to harden before cutting the hole.



**Food tin** Fish a fancy can from the recycling bin and put it to new use. Just remember to open cans from the bottom; otherwise, the words on the can will be hung upside-down.

how to create

## custom cabinetry

Try one of these six ideas that bring personal style to a basic cupboard door—on a budget.

1. **Prep the cabinet** with primer and a coat of paint; let dry. Sand lightly and wipe with a clean tack cloth before adding a second coat of paint.
2. **Lay out and trim** the mesh-backed glass tile to fit the door panel. Apply tile adhesive to the door with a putty knife and adhere tiles.
3. **You do not have** to grout between the tiles. If you do grout the tile, make sure the hinges are strong enough to hold the extra weight. To learn how to grout, turn to page 255.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| _Cabinet door               |
| _Primer                     |
| _Paint and paintbrush       |
| _Sandpaper, tack cloth      |
| _Glass tile on mesh backing |
| _Tile adhesive              |
| _Putty knife                |







**diy tip** Before starting any of these projects, prep the bare cabinets with a light sanding. Wipe clean with a tack cloth.



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Wood stain
- \_ Sandpaper
- \_ Stencil pattern
- \_ Contact paper
- \_ Paint and paintbrush
- \_ Polyurethane

## wood-grain image

The style of this nature-inspired door soars.

- 1. Finish the wood door** with a coat of wood stain in a color you choose to contrast with the top coat of paint. Let dry and lightly sand the door.
- 2. Print out a nature-inspired image** such as this bird, then trace the image onto contact paper. Turn to page 260 for the pattern. Cut out the shape using scissors (a). Adhere the image to the door. Tip: Mini scissors can help get details.
- 3. Apply a layer of cream paint**, starting at the center of the image and brushing outward so as not to push paint under the contact paper. Paint the rest of the door. Remove contact paper (b). Seal the door with a coat of water-base polyurethane.



## wallpaper

Graphic wallpaper boosts pattern play.

1. **Prime and paint the door;** let it dry. Sand lightly and wipe down with a tack cloth before adding a second coat of paint.
2. **Measure the door panel.** Cut out a section of wallpaper with a ruler and crafts knife. Spray the back with adhesive and lay the wallpaper in place. Smooth out any bubbles, working from the middle of the door to the edges.
3. **Once the adhesive** has set, paint decoupage medium over the entire door to seal the wallpaper and protect the door.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Paint and paintbrush
- \_ Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_ Wallpaper
- \_ Ruler
- \_ Crafts knife
- \_ Spray adhesive
- \_ Decoupage medium

## chalkboard

Use the silhouette of a family pet to adorn an office, mudroom, or craft room cabinet.

1. **Prime and paint the door** with green chalkboard paint. Use a foam roller to keep the finish smooth; let dry.
2. **Print out a stencil.** (Turn to page 260 for the pattern.) Trace the image onto contact paper, then cut out. Peel off the backing and adhere the image to the cabinet door.
3. **Paint the door** with brown chalkboard paint. Remove the contact paper before the paint dries, then let the door dry.  
Tip: If any paint seeped under the stencil, use a tiny paintbrush to do touch-ups.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Chalkboard paint in two colors
- \_ Small foam rollers
- \_ Stencil pattern
- \_ Contact paper





## trim details

Elevate the style of a plain door with wood trim.

1. **Buy strips of wood trim** at a home center and cut to the desired lengths with a handsaw.
2. **Prime and paint the door**, the molding, and the rosettes. Let dry. Sand lightly, then wipe down with a tack cloth before adding a second coat of paint. Let dry.
3. **Adhere trim pieces** to the door with wood glue. Clamp the pieces in place to dry.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Decorative wood trim
- \_Handsaw
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Wood glue
- \_Clamps



## woodburning

Go out on a limb with your designs. A wood-burning tool makes it easy.

1. **Print out a pattern** to your desired size. Use carbon paper to transfer the pattern to the wood. Or, rub pencil lead on the back of the pattern until it is solid gray. Place the paper so the gray is against the cabinet. Trace over the lines on the front of the sheet with a pen, transferring the pencil lead to the door.
2. **Trace over the lines** on the door with a wood-burning tool. The longer you leave the tool against the wood, the darker and wider the line will be. Once finished burning the wood, paint in the design with crafts paints.
3. **Finish the door** with a protective coat of polyurethane.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Pattern
- \_Carbon paper
- \_Wood-burning tool
- \_Crafts paints
- \_Paintbrushes
- \_Polyurethane







## Chapter 8

# pretty & personal windows



146



148



151



153



154

## no-sew shade

Get the tailored look of a decorator Roman shade.

**1. Buy faux-wood** blind cut to window size. Purchase thick upholstery fabric, enough to extend at least 3 inches on either side of the blinds and at least a foot below the windowsill.

**2. Lay out the wood blind** on a large work surface, front side facing down and fully opened. Snip away the ladder strings, taking care not to remove the single cord that raises the blind.

**3. Remove some slats**, leaving 7 inches between each (a). Place the blinds on the wrong side of the fabric. Fold fabric around the slat ends and the top and bottom of the blind. Mark with a pencil, remove slats, and iron. Layer the slats on the wrong side of fabric again, and attach fabric to the ends of the slats with decoupage medium (b). Let dry before installing.

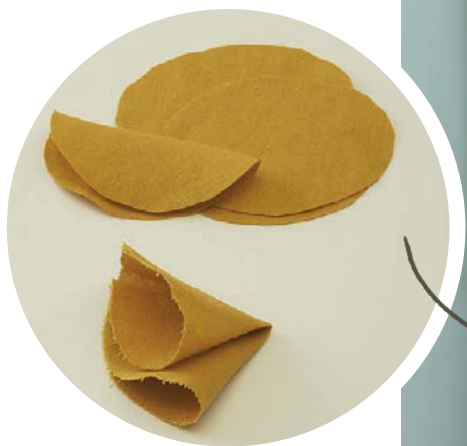
photo a



photo b







diy tip

For a variety of flower sizes, trace circles around different size cans or glasses. Group like sizes of folded circles together to create blossoms.



## embellished panels

Dimensional roses bloom on a pair of purchased curtain panels.

- 1. To make a rosette**, trace around a 3-inch-diameter drinking glass on the flower fabric. Repeat until you have five same-size circles per rosette. Cut out circles. Fold into quarters.
- 2. Hold all quartered circles** in your hand and stitch together with a needle and thread at the base of the flowers. Create the number of rosettes that you like and stitch them to a pair of curtain panels at alternating heights.
- 3. Run a bead** of fabric glue from the flower to the bottom of the curtain panel. Place a length of yarn on the glue, wrapping it under the bottom edge of the panel and gluing to the back of the curtain.
- 4. Cut leaf shapes** from green cotton fabric and position next to the yarn. Sew a straight stitch down the center and around edges to secure.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_1 yard of flower color
- \_3-inch drinking glass
- \_Needle and thread
- \_White curtain panels
- \_Fabric glue
- \_Green yarn
- \_1½ yard of green fabric



diy tip

Prevent your words from disappearing in the gathers. Split a single panel in half to cover one window or cut your own width from sheer yardage.



## embroidered words

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Kraft paper and scissors
- \_Curtain panels
- \_Thick black marker
- \_HB or 2B pencil
- \_Needle
- \_Embroidery floss

Stitch a personal message on a pair of sheers for a one-of-a-kind look.

1. **Cut kraft paper** to the width of the curtain panel. Write your words or letters on the paper using a pencil. Or print the words or letters from your computer using a pretty font. Once you're happy with the design, trace it with thick black marker on the paper.
2. **Position your window panel** over the pattern so that the letters show through where you want them to appear. Transfer the lettering to the panel using an HB or 2B pencil from an art supply store.
3. **Using a straight stitch**, embroider using a dark color for visibility.





## crisscross panels

Bring large-scale design to a pair of purchased panels with ribbon and button details.

1. **Spread out a single** curtain panel on a large, flat work surface. Create a pattern with a grid of ribbon and rickrack in an "X" motif. Pin in place.
2. **Glue lengths of ribbon** to the panel using fabric glue. Center and glue rickrack atop the ribbon. Finish by sewing large buttons where the ribbons cross.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Curtain panels
- \_Ribbon
- \_Fabric glue
- \_Rickrack
- \_Buttons



## marker transfer

Create a custom Roman shade with a fabric marker.

1. **Design a pattern** on your computer. Print letters in a favorite font—one per page—to spell a word you like. For the silverware design, check the web for copyright-free images you can enlarge on a photocopier.
2. **Place patterns** under the Roman shade and trace them in pencil on the fabric. Start with the center letter, working out and adding a letter to each side until the word is complete. Outline with a fabric marker.
3. **Hang** the Roman shade.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Printed design
- \_Roman shade
- \_Fabric marker



## ribbon panels

Turn plain window treatments into eye candy by adding a personal touch to ready-made curtains.

1. **Lay the panels** on a flat surface and attach horizontal bands of ribbon with washable fabrics glue. Our ribbons at the top of the panels are 1 inch wide and 1½ inches wide at the bottom of the panel.
2. **To make the ties** at the top, cut off the existing curtain panel tabs and cut six evenly spaced 1-inch horizontal slits across each panel 1 inch below the top. Thread a 22-inch length of 1-inch-wide ribbon through each slit, alternating colors, and tie the ribbon in a bow around the rod.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Curtain panels
- \_Ribbon (we used velvet)
- \_Fabrics glue



## patterned strips

Start with a shower curtain and add a little splash.

1. **Purchase a fabric shower curtain** and decorative fabric that complements your scheme. Determine the required overall length of the panels. Cut fabric; hem; and attach to the shower curtain with fusible webbing.
2. **Add ribbon details.** Ribbon attached with fabrics glue along the seam hides imperfections and adds a nice finish detail. Create tabs by cutting lengths of ribbon. Thread ribbon through the grommets, and stitch ends closed. Run the rod through the loops and hang.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Shower curtain
- \_Fabric
- \_Fusible web
- \_Grosgrain ribbon
- \_Fabrics glue





## DIY 101

Versatile ruffles can dress up a window treatment or add detail to a pillow. TURN TO PAGE 245 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RUFFLES.



## ruffles and roses panels

This sophisticated, tone-on-tone treatment started as a white sheet set.

- 1. Measure and cut** curtain panels from the flat sheet, finish the edges, and create a rod pocket at the top. (Use the fitted sheet for details.)
- 2. Cut fabric for ruffles.** Sew a basting stitch along one edge, and pull the fabric to gather. Pin ruffles to the curtain base and stitch. Attach the top ruffle right sides together, and flip it over to hide the raw edge.
- 3. To make a rose,** gather a length of fabric using a basting stitch. Manipulate the fabric to look like a blossom. With a needle and thread, stitch a loose running stitch through the gathered edges to secure. Hand-stitch to the panels.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Bedsheets
- \_Pins
- \_Sewing machine
- \_Needle and thread

windows



diy tip

Sheer fabrics create a sophisticated look here. But the basics of patchwork can be used to create different styles depending on the fabrics chosen. Calico fabric creates a quilted look. Solid fabric makes for bold blocks.

## lacy patchwork

This treatment uses a collection of favorite sheer scraps to create a soft, shimmery effect.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Fabrics
- \_Grid paper
- \_Pins
- \_Sewing machine

**1. Choose your fabrics** and plot out the pattern for the panels on grid paper to scale. By using grid paper, you can determine the dimensions of each fabric piece you'll be cutting. Label each section according to the fabric used. We used seven different sheers to get this effect.

**2. Cut fabric, and pin** together in rows. Stitch the pieces into rows, and then stitch the rows together. Sew a rod pocket, and the side and bottom edges to finish.



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Vinyl roller shade
- \_Tissue paper
- \_White crafts glue
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_MDF
- \_Saw
- \_Chipboard letters
- \_Primer
- \_L-brackets

## alphabet shade

Dress up a store-bought vinyl shade for sweet style.

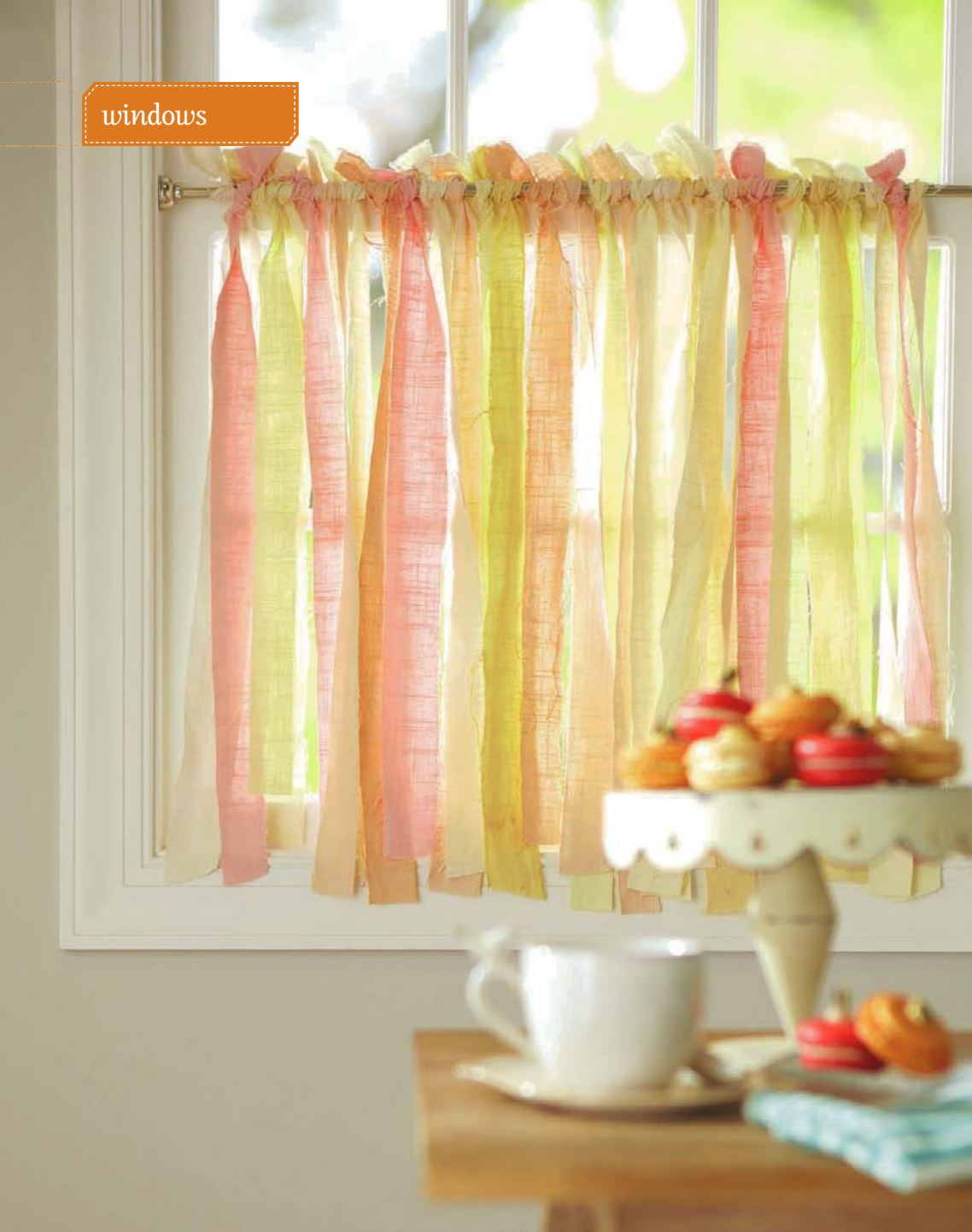
1. **Purchase a vinyl** roller shade. Unroll the vinyl on your work surface. Use a pencil to outline a shape such as the juicy green apple motif.
2. **Cut pieces** of tissue paper; attach to the shade, inside the outlined shape, with white crafts glue. Let dry. Layering strips of tissue paper achieves a mottled look. Paint the words and trim.
3. **Cut a piece of MDF** to create a three-sided valance box to fit around the window. Glue chipboard letters from the crafts store to the front of the valance. Prime and paint. Attach with L-brackets.

Use the mechanism in a roller shade but replace the vinyl with fabric for a softer look. Just unroll and tear away the vinyl, then attach fabric.

A G U R Q S G

A  
IS FOR





diy tip

Sheer linen is a great choice for dyeing, because the color accentuates the fabric's weave. If you like the look, but need more privacy, consider hanging a sheer behind the fabric strips to obscure the view.

## dyed linen strips

Are you searching for the perfect color? Make your own with this dyeing technique.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Sheer white linen
- \_Red and yellow crafts paint
- \_Bucket
- \_Spoon
- \_Iron

**1. Cut linen into strips.** Divide strips into four or five groups. You'll dye each group a different shade. Experiment with colors and saturation levels. We created five different colors using red and yellow crafts paint.

**2. Mix 1 tablespoon** of crafts paint to 1 gallon of water and stir. Test the dye on a scrap of linen. Once you're happy with the color, plunge a length of fabric into the mixture. Remove and hang to dry. Repeat until you are happy with the mix of colors. Iron the dry fabric to set the color.

**3. Line up the strips** in alternating colors, then tie to a curtain rod. Cut fabric strips to the desired length for coverage. These were cut short to create a café curtain.



photo a



photo b



## chevron shade

You only need painter's tape and an idea to create a geometric stencil design that's easy to roll on with paint.

1. To make a chevron stripe, determine the center point of the fabric Roman shade and position the pattern for pleasing symmetry. We allowed for 4-inch stripes.
2. Use a plastic artist's triangle tool (or create your own triangle shape out of cardboard) and pencil to trace lines onto the shade. Use a straightedge to make sure the chevron stripes are level.
3. Tape above and below the pencil line with painter's tape (a). Repeat for each stripe. Use a brush or roller to paint on fabric paint (b). Remove painter's tape and install the shade once the paint is dry.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Roman shade
- \_ Triangle tool
- \_ Straightedge
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Fabric paint
- \_ Paintbrush or roller

## DIY 101

Learn how we  
constructed  
this headboard.

SEE PAGE 250 FOR HOW TO  
MAKE THIS PROJECT.







# beautiful & budget headboards





photo a



photo b



photo c



## woven veneer

You'll build two frames of the same size for this project—a hidden one from cheap poplar that forms the base and a prettier outer frame from maple.

**1. Plan the width** and height of your headboard. This will determine the length of your maple veneer strips. A thick variety of maple veneer called "no black line" is ideal. Measure and cut strips of veneer in three widths—2, 3, and 4 inches—and the length and height of your headboard. On the poplar frame, measure and mark where strips will be attached.

**2. Glue, then staple** the shorter strips vertically onto the poplar frame, leaving 1 inch between strips (a). Weave the longer strips through the vertical veneer strips, alternating the 2-, 3-, and 4-inch widths (b). Start weaving the strip through the middle, then push up or down to the desired placement, leaving 1 inch between each horizontal strip.

**3. With strips in place**, position the poplar frame within the maple outer frame. Fasten the two together (c), then coat the unit with clear polyurethane. Attach to the bed frame.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Poplar & maple boards
- \_Veneer in three widths
- \_Wood glue
- \_Staple gun
- \_Polyurethane
- \_Paintbrush





## grid of prints

Stack two cedar trellises into a botanicals-inspired headboard that you dress up with favorite images.

1. **Cut away** the ends on one side of each panel so the trellises abut. Secure with wood screws.
2. **Staple a paper** square to the back of each opening and glue art prints to the paper squares.
3. **Screw metal hangers** to the back of the finished piece and hang from nails.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Two trellises
- \_Saw
- \_Wood screws
- \_Stapler
- \_Drill
- \_Decorative paper
- \_Art prints
- \_Glue
- \_Metal hangers and nails



## corrugated metal

Tin roofing from a home improvement center makes an unexpected appearance as a shapely headboard.

1. **Buy a sheet** of corrugated tin roofing at least the width of your bed. Draw the headboard shape directly onto the tin. Tip: For a symmetrical design, you can make a pattern from paper as wide as the bed. Fold it in half vertically, then draw the design onto the paper. Cut the paper with scissors and transfer the design to the tin.
2. **Cut out the design** with a jigsaw and use a grinder to knock down any sharp edges. Screw directly to the wall.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Corrugated tin roofing
- \_Paper pattern
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Grinder
- \_Screws and screw gun



## decorative decals

A new crop of pretty peel-and-stick decals makes it easy to personalize almost everything.

1. **Search the Internet** for peel-and-stick products, using these keywords: stickers, window film, or decals. Select your favorite.
2. **Prep the surface** by making sure it is clean, dry, and dust-free.
3. **Slowly peel away** the backing while smoothing the decal on the headboard. When the design placement is permanent, burnish the decals using a credit card.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Decals
- \_Burnishing tool



## tin ceiling tiles

Make an impression with a headboard made from tin ceiling tiles and plywood.

1. **Cut a pattern** from kraft paper in your desired size and shape. Trace pattern onto plywood and cut using a jigsaw.
2. **Place tin tiles** on the plywood, allowing tiles to overhang. Use adhesive caulk to secure tiles one at a time to the plywood.
3. **Use tin snips** to cut the tin tiles to the shape of the plywood. Grind down any rough edges. Paint the tin and sides; let dry. Hang at desired height using a cleat.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Kraft paper
- \_Plywood
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Tin ceiling tiles
- \_Adhesive caulk
- \_Tin snips and grinder
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Cleat



## DIY 101

Piping is a thin strip of covered cord used to accent a project's shape and to finish edges. SEE PAGE 244 TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE PIPING FOR THIS HEADBOARD.

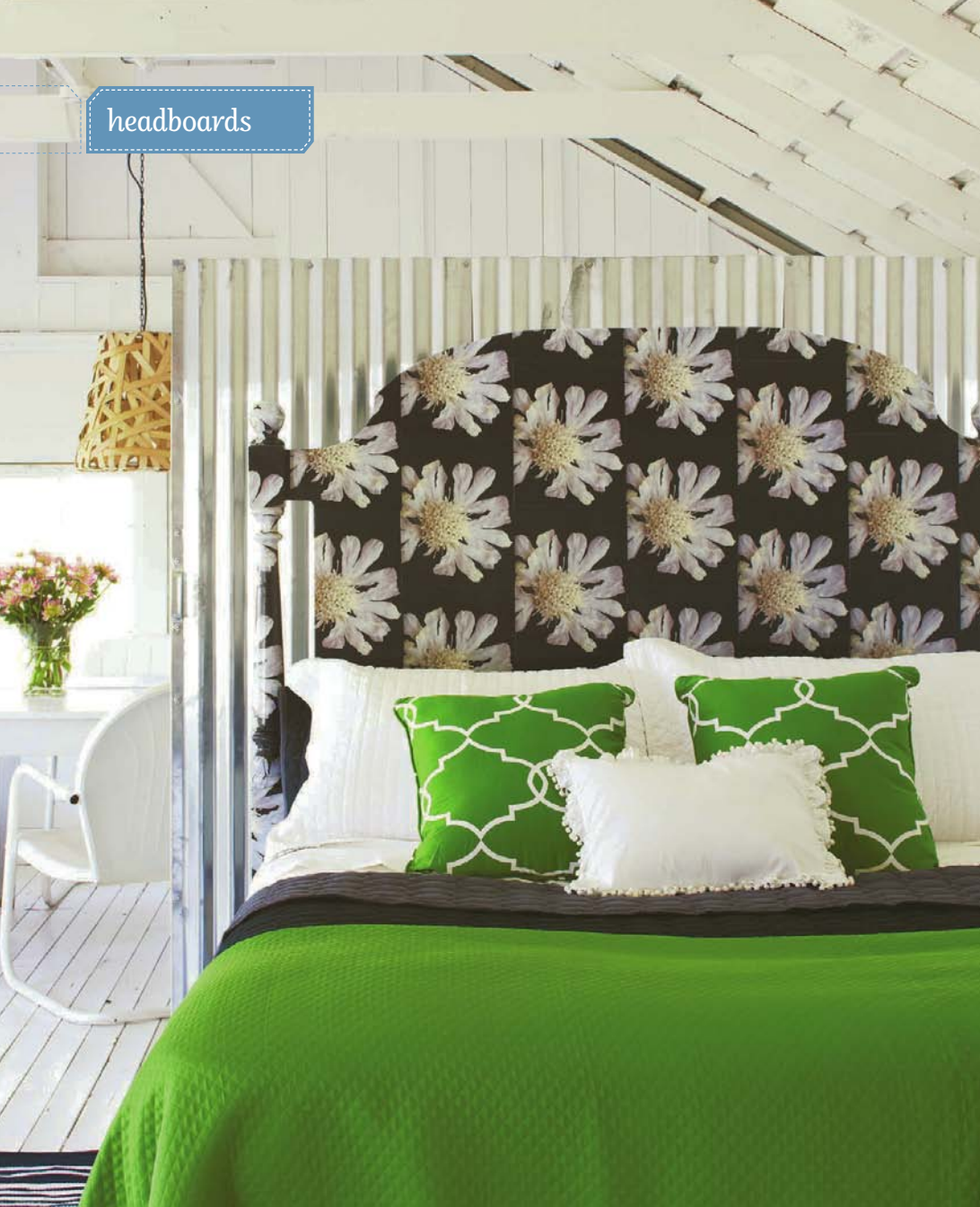
# upholstery

Wake up your bedroom with an upholstered headboard prized by high-end designers and boutiques.

1. **Draw the desired** profile on kraft paper and cut out. Tape the pattern on top of one piece of medium-density fiberboard (MDF) or plywood, aligning one side edge of the pattern with the MDF's side edge; trace the pattern.
2. **Using a jigsaw**, cut out the headboard. To create the extended height of your headboard, mark and cut out of a second sheet of MDF a rectangular piece the same width as the top portion and tall enough to create your desired finished height.
3. **Align the top** MDF panel with the bottom board. Apply four mending braces to span the seam where the two boards meet. Install four more braces on the opposite side.
4. **Using adhesive designed** for insulating foam board, attach the foam board, cut to the same pattern, to the back of the MDF. Let dry. Add a layer of batting to the front of MDF with a staple gun. Sew a slipcover for the headboard.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Pattern
- \_ Kraft paper
- \_ Masking tape
- \_ Two sheets of 4x8-foot medium-density fiberboard
- \_ Jigsaw
- \_ Eight mending braces
- \_ Two sheets of 4x8-foot MDF
- \_ Foam board adhesive
- \_ Batting
- \_ Staple gun
- \_ 6 yards decorator fabric
- \_ Piping cord



diy tip

Decoupage projects can get messy, so preparation is key. For large projects, use a drop cloth to catch any drips. Keep a damp cloth handy to wipe up messes as you go. Allow each coat of decoupage medium to dry completely before applying another.

## decoupage

Pressure-treated deck posts topped with a ball finial create a shapely headboard you can dress up with decoupage.

**1. Make a headboard** using MDF and posts and finials. Print multiple copies of a photo. Attach the photos to the headboard using decoupage medium.

**1. Overlap each photo** about  $\frac{1}{16}$  of an inch to avoid gaps as the wet paper dries. To get a smooth finish over the posts and balls, apply the image in strips, smoothing the paper as you apply. Let dry.

**1. Apply several more** coats of the decoupage medium as a sealer, letting dry between coats.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_MDF
- \_Two posts and finials
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Images
- \_Decoupage medium
- \_Paintbrush





**DIY  
101**

Love the shape  
of this curvy  
headboard? SEE  
PAGE 261 FOR THE PATTERN.



## faux-bois

This wood-look headboard was created with paint and a wood-graining tool from the crafts store.

1. **Tape off a headboard** design on the wall using painter's tape. Paint the base coat, and let dry.
2. **Mix 4 parts** glaze medium with 1 part paint in another color. Apply the glaze mix and drag the wood-graining tool through it following the manufacturer's directions, rocking the tool back and forth as you drag it across the surface. Repeat until the entire area is covered.
3. **Remove tape** and let dry. Spray with a clear finish sealer if desired. Prop pillows on the "headboard" wall.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Paint in two colors
- \_ Paintbrush
- \_ Glaze
- \_ Wood-graining tool
- \_ Clear finish sealer

## murphy bed

When space is at a premium, build a wall bed that folds down when company arrives and tucks away with ease.

1. **Make a simple box** from plywood to fit your twin-, full-, or queen-size mattress. (You won't need a box spring). The bed can be positioned with the head or one side against the wall.
2. **Attach the bed** to the wall's studs, using a wall kit. Slide your mattress into the box frame, and secure with the straps provided in the kit. The bed should fold up and store securely within its frame. Tip: If you want a headboard, you can paint one, following the tips, *at left*.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Create-A-Bed kit from wallbed.com
- \_ Plywood
- \_ Jigsaw
- \_ Hammer
- \_ Nails



## shaded stencil

It's easy to get your beauty sleep when your head is resting beneath a pretty stenciled headboard.

1. **Sand, prime, and paint** a simple headboard.
2. **Once dry**, tape a stencil to the headboard and fill in the stencil with a complementary paint color. Use a paper plate to hold the paint. To add dimension, dab a little gray paint along one edge of the stencil with a pouncer.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Sandpaper
- \_ Tack cloth
- \_ Primer
- \_ Paint and paintbrush
- \_ Pouncer brush
- \_ Stencil
- \_ Crafts paints in two colors
- \_ Paper plate



## soft slipcover

Wrap your headboard with foam and a canvas slipcover.

1. **Make a paper pattern** of your bed's headboard. Trace and cut out the shape. Transfer to foam enough times to boost the headboard's thickness to about 3 inches. Cut out foam and attach to the headboard with spray adhesive, then wrap in batting.
2. **Trace the pattern** on canvas twice, adding 5 inches to the bottom and 1 inch to the remaining edges; cut out. Cut a 4-inch-wide boxing strip. Make two ruffles from patterned fabric. Piece together the front, back, boxing strip, and ruffles; sew and pull over the padded headboard.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Paper pattern
- \_ 2-inch-thick foam sheet
- \_ Spray adhesive
- \_ Batting
- \_ Canvas fabric
- \_ 1 yard patterned fabric
- \_ Sewing machine





## stencil statement

A classic houndstooth pattern was the inspiration for a canopy bed.

1. **Create a stencil** by photocopying our houndstooth pattern. For best results, create your stencil with frisket, a low-tack transparent masking paper (available at art supply stores). Or use stencil film, adhered with spray adhesive.
2. **Sand, prime, and paint** the frame in your lighter color. Paint the canopy frame and post turnings in your darker color. Let dry.
3. **With a pencil** and ruler, mark a horizontal grid around the bed frame to guide the placement of your stencil. Adhere the stencil to your starting point and fill in the shape with the darker color using a flat-bristle stencil brush, foam brush, or small roller. Carefully reposition the stencil while the paint is still wet. Continue until the frame, headboard, and footboard are complete. Let dry.
4. **To add pattern** to the posts, carefully wrap the stencil around the edges and curves. Run a credit card or burnishing tool over the stencil to avoid any gaps. Fill in the stencil with paint and let dry.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Pattern
- \_Frisket or stencil film
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint in two colors
- \_Paintbrush
- \_Spray adhesive
- \_Flat-bristle stencil brush

### DIY 101

Enlarging what is traditionally a small-scale pattern creates a new energy for this houndstooth. **SEE PAGE 261 FOR THE STENCIL PATTERN.**



## headboards



diy tip

If you're having trouble finding oddball drawers, rescue them from dilapidated dressers. You can pick up old dressers for just a few dollars at your local junk shop. Keep your eyes out for those with curvy shapes.



### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Drawers
- \_Screws
- \_Drill
- \_Plywood
- \_Saw
- \_Paint supplies
- \_Wallpaper and adhesive
- \_Hinges
- \_Drawer pulls
- \_1x4-inch cleat

## storage drawers

To create a one-of-a-kind headboard that's full of storage, hunt down oodles of old drawers.

**1. With the drawers** on the floor, fuss, fit, and fudge until the arrangement suits your headboard space. Don't hesitate to use fillers or leave openings where the wall can peek through.

**2. Secure drawers together** with screws and cut plywood doors to fit a few openings. Paint the assembly; if you want, wallpaper the drawer backs and doors. Hang doors and install pulls. Hang the headboard using a 1x4-inch cleat.





**Plump pillows** You'll have a soft spot for this headboard, made by hanging two floor pillows on the wall. Stitch several plastic rings in a row to the back of each pillow near its top edge. Hang the loops from nails installed on the wall.



**Flower photo** Download a flower photo and visit a copy center for a large printout. Use carpet tape to attach the image to your existing furniture, or make a headboard from plywood and trim molding.



**Layer up** Create a lightweight "throw" for your headboard and footboard using just 2 yards of 50-inch-wide fabric for each. Cut them to your desired size and finish the edges. Add decorative trim for a fun touch.



**Wire sculpture** Scour the aisles at discount home stores for sculptural objects to hang above the bed. Found for just \$30 each, these two metal scrollwork panels form an interesting headboard when suspended as a pair.

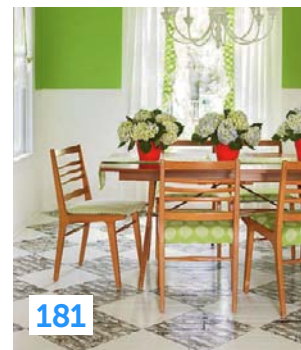
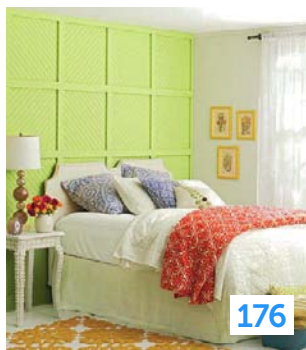
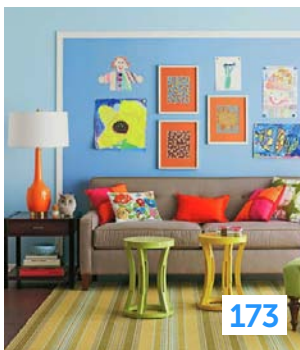


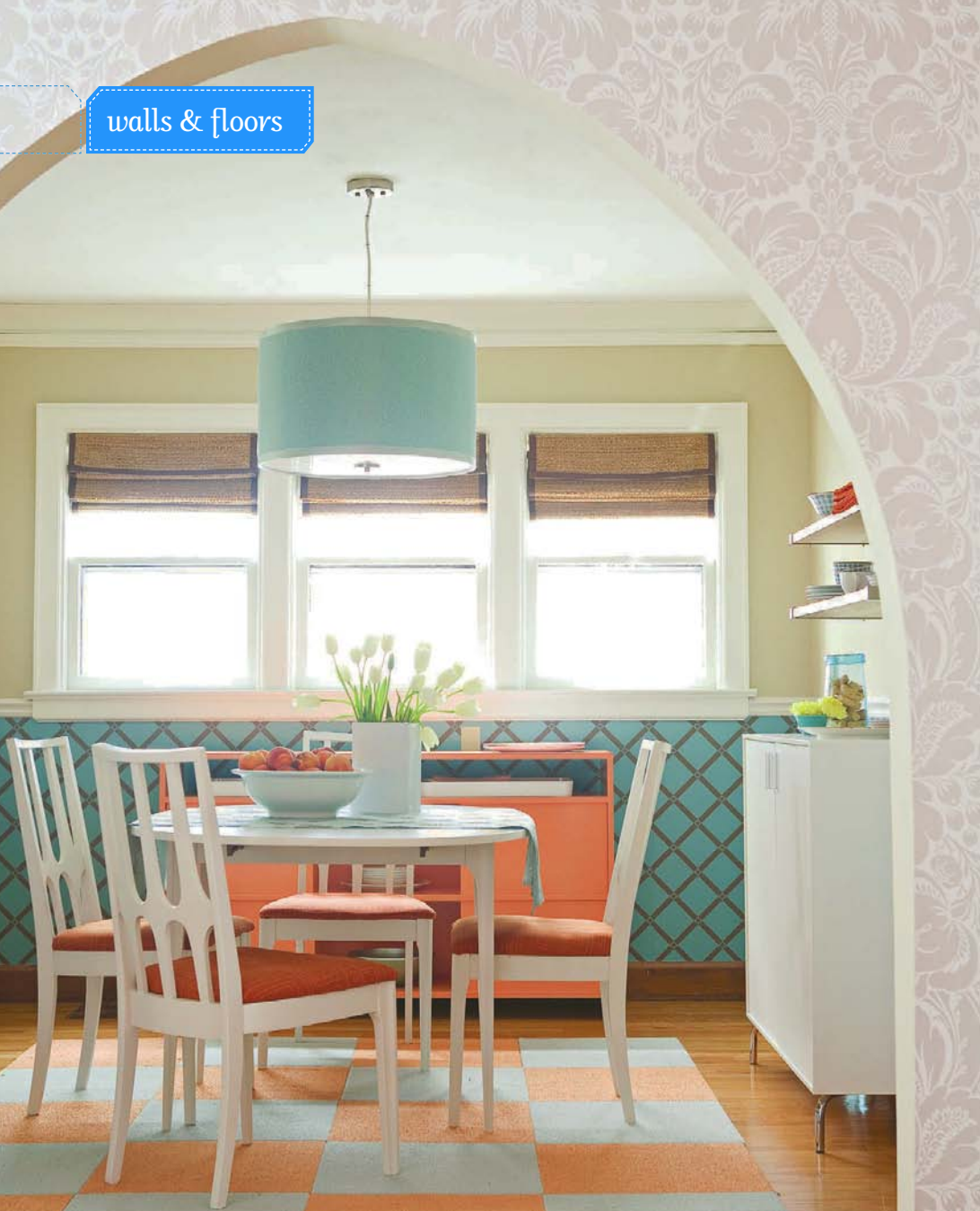






# make a statement walls & floors





diy tip

Before installing a geometric pattern, make sure your room is square. (If not, it can create some visual effects that aren't pleasing to the eye.) Start in the middle of the room and work toward the corners.

## pattern play

A mix of striking wallpaper patterns boosts interest in a plain room.

**1. Figure the square footage** needed for the wallpaper, calculating for pattern match. Typically, American double rolls have 72 square feet, and metric or European double rolls have 58 square feet.

**2. Repair the wall.** Be sure the wall is clean and free of mildew, adhesives, and chipping paint. Fill nail holes and cracks. Remove switchplates and fixtures; then prime walls using a wallpaper primer.

**3. Cut paper,** allowing at least 2 inches extra at each end and matching the pattern. If your wallpaper isn't prepasted, mix paste according to manufacturer's instructions. Fold each end toward the center (adhesive to adhesive). For more information on wallpaper, turn to page 252.

**4. After five minutes,** unfold the top half and apply the paper to the wall using a damp sponge to smooth out wrinkles. Repeat with the bottom half. Use a metal ruler and sharp utility knife to trim surplus paper at the top and bottom. Roll seams with a seam roller to secure.

### YOU'LL NEED:

\_Wallpaper

\_Primer

\_Sponge

\_Bucket

\_Utility knife

\_Metal ruler

\_Seam roller



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_1x2-inch wood trim
- \_Saw
- \_Primer
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Hammer and nails
- \_Caulk
- \_Nail set
- \_Wood filler

## board-and-batten look

Add some architecture by applying vertical battens to drywall.

**1. Give your interiors** an architectural look inspired by board-and-batten siding. (True board-and-batten features narrow vertical strips placed over the seams between wide boards.) Cut lengths of 1x2 wood trim. Sand, prime, and paint each strip. Tip: Paint battens the same color as the wall for a subtle effect.

**2. Nail each piece of trim** to the wall with even spacing. Apply caulk to fill gaps between the trim and wall. Use a nail set and hammer to push nailheads below the wood's surface. Slightly overfill holes and dents with wood filler. Sand smooth when dry. Touch up the paint job.





photo a



photo b



**YOU'LL NEED:**

- \_Level
- \_Hammer and nails
- \_Miter box and saw
- \_1x2-inch lumber
- \_Plexiglass
- \_Straightedge
- \_Scoring tool
- \_Paint supplies
- \_Wood filler
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Primer

## plexiglass panels

Inspired by a wall of mirrors, these plexiglass panels add interest and dimension to a flat wall.

**1. Measure your wall** and map a pattern on graph paper. Transfer the design to the wall with a pencil and a level. Using a nail gun or hammer, apply 1x2s to the horizontal lines, checking level as you go and starting at the top. Using a miter saw or miter box, cut 1x2s to fit the vertical lines. Attach these to the wall (a).

**2. Place plexiglass** on a work surface and mark the pattern in pen. Lay a straightedge on top, guided by the marks. Score with a scoring tool three to four times. Snap apart. Remove the protective film and paint one side.

**3. Cut picture molding** to fit each plexiglass perimeter, mitering the corners. Nail the bottom molding on first, and position the plexiglass. Nail on the sides and top (b). Fill nail holes, sand, prime, and paint the trim.





## oversized stencil

Highlight a focal-point wall with a supersize stencil pattern.

1. **Plot your design** before beginning. Experiment with colors to get the right mix. We used four shades of neutrals to keep the look transitional. Look to affordable paint samples or crafts paints to get the right palette.
2. **Practice on scrap drywall** to perfect the stencil positioning and your color scheme.
3. **Start in the center** of the wall, and work your way to the corners. Spray the back of the stencil with repositionable adhesive. Pounce the paint onto the wall with a stencil brush. You can bend the pliable stencil—or even cut it—to finish the corners.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Stencil
- \_Stencil brush
- \_Crafts paints
- \_Repositionable adhesive



## gallery display

Turn a section of wall into a rotating art gallery.

1. **Choose two colors** in different shades of the same hue. Paint the wall your base color and let it dry.
2. **Roll on a darker shade** of magnetic paint for the gallery area. Let it dry. Cut lengths of chair rail molding and frame the section of the wall for a finished look, or simply paint a border.
3. **Arrange your artwork.** Framed art can be hung on nails. Loose pages can be attached using magnets.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Paint and magnetic paint
- \_Paintbrush and roller
- \_Chair rail molding
- \_Miter box and saw
- \_Hammer and nails

## caning stencil

Create a wall grid designed using 2-inch painter's tape.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Paint in two colors
- \_ Paintbrush and roller
- \_ Tape measure and level
- \_ 2-inch painter's tape
- \_ Acrylic matte medium

**1. After painting** the wall's lighter base coat, design a grid. Use 2-inch painter's tape to create 18-inch squares divided by horizontal and vertical stripes spaced 3 inches apart.

**2. Add angled lines** last for best results. With painter's tape in place, apply a light coat of acrylic matte medium before painting the top coat. Tip: When planning a tone-on-tone look, consider choosing colors that are two or three shades apart on the same paint strip.

**3. Remove the tape** as soon as the paint is dry, after about two hours.







## wood panels

Don't confuse this veneer project with pine paneling that went out with disco. This is wall art with a light, natural feel.

**1. Use graph paper** to create a scale (1 inch = 1 foot) blueprint for your wall. Get creative with the size and shape of the pieces. Transfer your pattern to the wall with a ruler, level, and pencil. Plan to vary the direction of the wood grain, placing some vertically and some horizontally. Mark this on the wall, too.

**2. Select your veneer.** Veneer backed by medium-density fiberboard (MDF) provides stability, but you could cut your shapes from a roll of paper-backed veneer, available at most home centers.

**3. When your panels** are ready, use power adhesive (look for the kind in a caulking tube) to affix panels to the wall, then nail in place for added security. Place nails near the outside edges of the panels so they'll be concealed when you add molding.

**4. Stain and seal molding** to match the wall panels. Use finish nails to attach the trim over panel seams to complete.

### YOU'LL NEED:

\_Graph paper

\_Ruler and level

\_Veneer

\_Saw

\_Adhesive

\_Hammer and nails

\_Molding

\_Stain and sealer



diy tip

A pneumatic nail gun makes jobs such as applying trim moldings a lot quicker and easier. This tool allows you to hold the trim with one hand and shoot a finish nail with the other. It also minimizes boards splitting.



## beaded-board wall

This project takes a lot of measuring and cuts. If you're a beginner, avoid placing beaded board on the diagonal. Instead, vary horizontal and vertical lines.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Tape measure
- \_Beaded board
- \_1x2-inch lumber
- \_Circular saw
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Hammer and nails
- \_Wood filler

**1. Measure your wall** and determine how large your squares of beaded board will be. Cut squares on the diagonal from a sheet of beaded board, matching the beads along the edges. Cut corresponding 2-inch horizontal and vertical boards to fit the wall. Sand, prime, and paint the moldings.

**2. Apply the beaded board** to the wall, carefully matching the beads and nailing every few inches. When all are applied, sand, prime, and paint the beaded board.

**3. Nail a horizontal board** at the top of the wall, covering the beaded board's edges. Attach vertical pieces at the beaded-board intersections. Add the second horizontal piece, then repeat the process. Fill nail holes; let dry, and touch up with paint.





## wall decal

Applying a chic monogram decal above a fireplace creates an elegant focal point and solves the wall art issue.

1. **Remove any dust and debris** from your wall. Choose a decal that complements your room. Most mass-market retailers carry some peel-and-stick decals. Many more are available online.
2. **Apply the decal** to the wall. Hold it in place with painter's tape. When the image is positioned, use a burnishing tool, such as a credit card, to smooth out any air bubbles.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Wall decal
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Burnishing tool



## cabin walls

Give your bedroom a relaxed vacation vibe with exposed 2x4s and grass cloth.

1. **Take inspiration** from the rough-hewn walls of an old fishing cabin. This rustic grid was installed on top of drywall and designed in a way that allows for plenty of display niches.
2. **Wallpaper or paint the walls.** Natural grass cloth brings an earthy texture to the space.
3. **Prepare 2x4s.** Sand rough places in the boards and fill holes with wood filler for a more polished look. Prime the boards and let dry. Paint the boards a color of your choosing. (White inspires a beach cottage feeling.) Attach to the wall and touch up the paint as needed.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Grass cloth
- \_ Sandpaper
- \_ 2x4-inch lumber
- \_ Wood filler
- \_ Saw, hammer, nails
- \_ Painting supplies



photo a



photo b



photo c



## dimensional flowers

Let your walls bloom with handmade flowers cut from wood veneer.

1. **Choose three varieties** of veneer in contrasting tones. We used walnut burl, maple, and fig cherry. Draw simple leaf patterns in varying sizes on paper, and trace the shapes onto the veneer (a).
2. **Carefully cut** out leaf shapes (b). It helps to cut around the shape roughly at first, then cut precisely around curves. Exotic wood veneers are more delicate and prone to splitting than basic wood species.
3. **Arrange leaf shapes** on a craft wood base (c). Brush glue on the back of the shapes. Veneer will curl slightly. Wipe off excess glue, then set a stack of heavy books on top of the leaves to flatten; let dry.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Three varieties of veneer
- \_Pattern
- \_Wood base
- \_Crafts glue
- \_Paintbrush



## tinted concrete

### YOU'LL NEED:

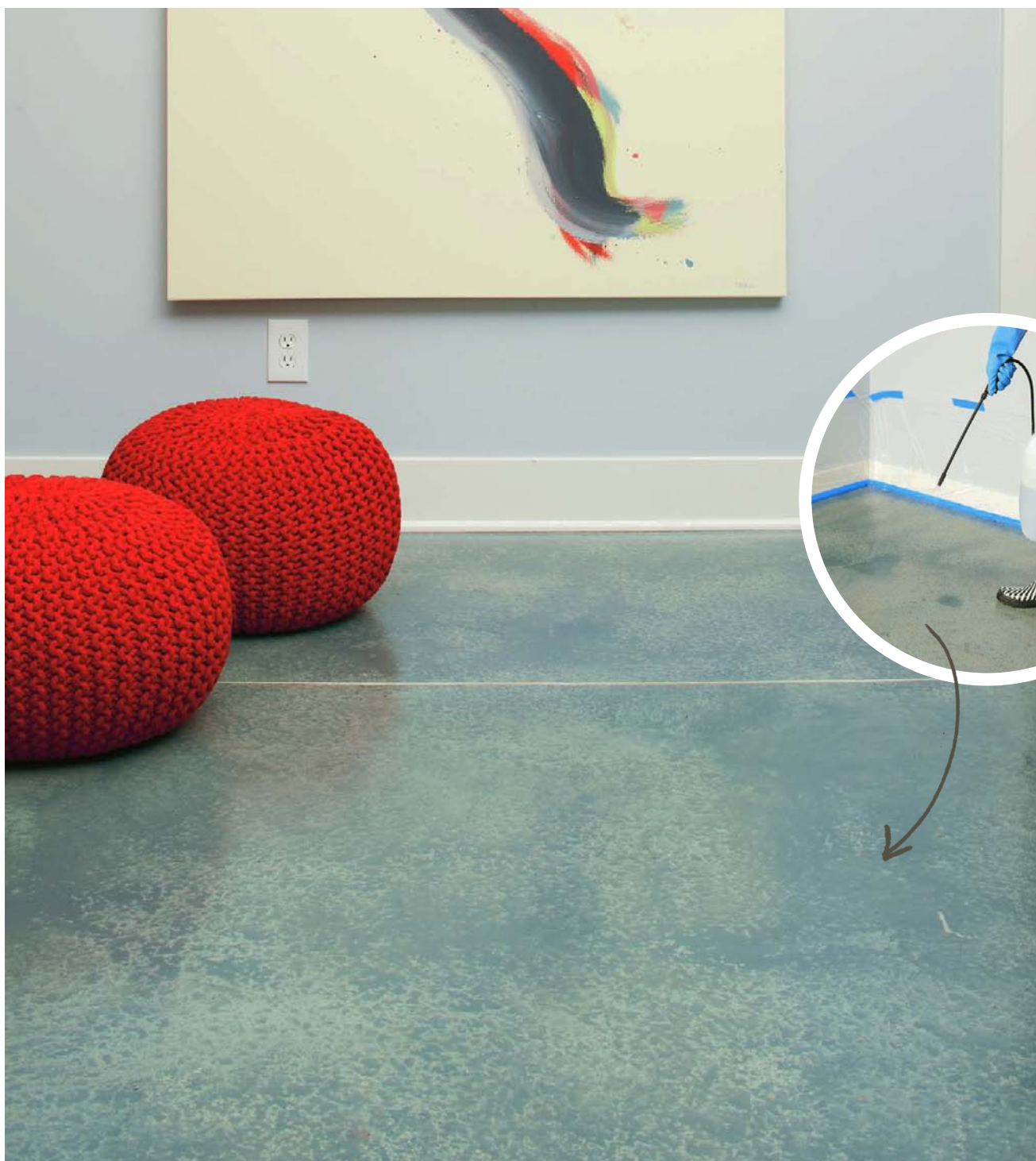
- \_ Plastic sheeting
- \_ Etching liquid
- \_ Protective gear
- \_ Stiff broom
- \_ Hose
- \_ Wet vac
- \_ Color stain
- \_ Pump sprayer
- \_ Sealer

Gray be gone. Dress up industrial concrete with a color tint.

**1. Protect your finished** walls with plastic sheeting before you begin the project. Clean the concrete floor with etching liquid or concrete cleaner from the hardware store, according to manufacturer's directions. Wear protective eyewear and gloves. The compound gets foamy. Brush it on the floor with a stiff-bristle broom to degrease the surface and rough up the concrete so that it can accept the stain.

**2. Rinse off the compound** with water using a hose. Suck up the water with a wet vac or rinse down a drain. Let it dry overnight.

**3. Mix the stain** according to the instructions on the product. Get the concrete slightly wet. Apply stain with a pump sprayer. Let dry overnight. Finish with a clear sealer.





## painted porch floor

Preppy stripes look like a designer floor covering on a porch.

1. **Prepare the floor** by sanding any peeling paint. Clean with a power washer to remove grime if needed. If the floor is bare, start with a coat of primer. Tip: Tint the primer the color of your lighter paint for extra coverage.
2. **Once the primer** has dried, tape off equal stripes using painter's tape. Roll on the darker paint color and let dry. For durability, choose an exterior-grade paint finish.
3. **Protect the finish** with two coats of polyurethane. Let dry.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Primer
- \_Painter's tape
- \_Paint in two colors
- \_Roller
- \_Polyurethane



## graphic plaid tile

Install click-in-place linoleum tiles in a geometric pattern.

1. **Determine your pattern** by planning on graph paper. Use a 1 ft = 1 square ratio. This pattern mixes three colors. The white is a square, the orange and red are planks.
2. **Install the tiles** following the how-to on page 182.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Linoleum tiles
- \_Graph paper
- \_Keyhole saw or jigsaw
- \_Tape measure
- \_Fitting wedges
- \_Level
- \_Pry bar



# checkered floor

Although it looks tricky, this checkerboard floor is easy to do. Perfect your technique on a sample board first.

## YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Sander
- \_ TSP
- \_ Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_ Primer and floor paint
- \_ Laser pointer level
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Glaze
- \_ Wood-graining roller
- \_ Epoxy sealant

**1. Prep your floor.** Sand off any old varnish, and wash the floor with a trisodium phosphate (TSP) solution. Buff with a fine-grain sandpaper and wipe down with a tack cloth. Prime and paint the floor in the lighter of the two colors. We used a glossy, oil-base floor paint and gave it several days to cure.

**2. Determine square size.** We used 12-inch squares. Find the center of your room and work out, using a laser pointer level to connect your marks making a diamond pattern; pencil in lines. Mask off alternating squares using painter's tape.

**3. Mix paint with glaze** in a 1:1 ratio. Brush glaze mix onto a square. Drag a wood-graining roller (available at crafts or paint stores) through the square. Tip: Glaze extends the working time to about an hour, so if you're not happy with the results, just brush on more glaze and start over. Lift off the tape before the glaze dries completely. Finish with an epoxy sealant that won't yellow.





**diy tip** Use an underlayment foam with a vapor barrier on concrete subfloors before installing tile. In damp (or potentially damp) areas, seal all expansion spaces with mildew-resistant silicone.

## linoleum floor tiles

You can install click-in-place linoleum floor tiles on top of any dry, clean, and level subfloor.

1. **Saw off the tongue** on the top and left sides of the first tile. Begin laying tiles in one corner of the room. Use wedges to maintain a  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch gap from the wall. For all first-row tiles, saw off the tongue on the wall-facing side with the linoleum-covered side facing up.
2. **Click the next tile** in place, lifting it slightly and then pressing down to lock. Continue clicking tiles in place along the room's width. Cut the last panel in the row to length.
3. **Install the next row** by clicking together tiles to form a panel that runs the width of the room. Click the entire panel into place with the first row. Install additional rows using the same technique. To fit the final row, cut tiles to size and join together with a pry bar. Finish with base, quarter-round molding, and T-strips at the doorway.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Linoleum tiles
- \_Keyhole saw or jigsaw
- \_Tape measure
- \_Fitting wedges
- \_Level
- \_Pry bar
- \_Molding





## DIY 101

Want to see how to install a laminate floor? SEE

PAGE 252 TO LEARN HOW.

## laminate flooring

For this kitchen's floor, we used three different species of laminate flooring.

**1. For a new look,** choose several species in the same flooring product line by the same manufacturer (look for similar production dates to ensure the flooring fits together) and mix it up for a mosaic effect.

**2. Read the manufacturer's** instructions and follow any guidelines for prepping the subfloor and installing the product. Allow the flooring to acclimate to the room's temperature and humidity for 72 hours before beginning. Apply underlayment. Some laminate wood floors come with the underlayment attached to the underside of the boards.

**3. Install according** to instructions, starting at one end of the room and working to the opposite side.

### YOU'LL NEED:

\_Laminate flooring

\_Underlayment

\_Moisture barrier

\_Jigsaw and circular saw

\_Table saw and miter saw

\_Safety glasses

\_Dust mask

\_Tapping block

\_Flooring spacers

\_Dead blow hammer

\_Pull bar

\_Tape measure

\_Utility knife

\_Level







## Chapter 11

# just your style easy furniture



186



188



192



195



201

easy furniture



**diy tip** The length of the decorative legs should fall ½ inch short of the utility legs so the load of the table is still on the utility legs and not on the decorative legs. Try this idea on any banquet or utility table.

#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Utility table
- \_ MDF
- \_ Kraft paper
- \_ Jigsaw
- \_ Screwdriver, screws
- \_ Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_ Primer
- \_ Paint & paintbrush

## breakfast table

A utility table becomes a charming breakfast spot with this clever cover-up.

- 1. Cut a 3-inch** apron from medium-density fiberboard (MDF) to fit around the outside of the legs of a utility table.
- 2. Draw the desired** shape of the decorative leg on kraft paper. Trace the leg pattern onto MDF and cut eight legs using a jigsaw. You will need two decorative legs for each table leg.
- 3. Secure two legs** together. Repeat with all legs so you end up with four, two-sided legs. Use screws to secure each of the legs to the apron, concealing the utility legs. Design a shape for the tabletop, cut out, and attach to the apron. Sand, prime, and paint using semigloss latex paint. Let dry.



## diy tip

Place a second piece of clean, dry plywood or other heavy object on top of carpet tiles to weigh them down as the adhesive dries. To care for the headboard, clean with a vacuum attachment to remove dust.

## carpet headboard

Make a luxurious-looking headboard from plywood and carpet squares.

1. **Cut a pattern** from kraft paper in your desired size and shape. Trace the pattern onto plywood and cut using a jigsaw. Sand, prime, and paint the edges of the plywood using semigloss latex paint; let dry.
2. **Place carpet tiles** on the plywood, allowing them to overhang all sides of the plywood. Use adhesive caulk to secure the carpet tiles one at a time to the plywood. Let dry.
3. **Use a sharp** utility knife to cut the carpet tiles to the shape of the plywood. Use a rubber mallet to nail in large nailheads 1 inch from the edge and around the sides and top. Hang the headboard at the desired height using a cleat.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Kraft paper
- \_Plywood
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Carpet tiles
- \_Adhesive caulk
- \_Utility knife
- \_Rubber mallet
- \_Large nailheads
- \_Cleat

easy furniture



diy tip

It doesn't get much easier than using peel-and-stick vinyl tile squares designed for floors. Tiles range in price from \$.50 to \$4 a square foot, making this material a steal for a budget-minded DIYer.



## worktable

Top a work surface with easy-to-clean vinyl floor tiles for a creative look.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Table
- \_Tape measure
- \_Vinyl floor tiles
- \_Utility knife

**1. Measure your tabletop**, then purchase the necessary vinyl floor tiles from a home improvement center in complementary colors. We used four natural shades.

**2. Slice each adhesive-back** tile into thirds with a utility knife. Play with the layout of the design until you like it. We alternated the tiles, but you could also create long stripes of color on the tabletop.

**3. Remove the paper** backing and press the tiles onto the table.





## console table

Stackable cubes amp up style and storage for an entertainment center.

1. **Screw together** two 15-inch open cubes and one 30-inch unit with drawers to assemble the console.
2. **Sandwich the assembly** between two  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch pieces of MDF cut to fit flush on the sides and back and with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch overhang on the front. Sand, prime, and paint the MDF before assembling.
3. **Screw on modern** metal legs to finish the piece.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Storage cubes
- \_ Screwdriver, screws
- \_ MDF
- \_ Circular saw
- \_ Sandpaper
- \_ Primer
- \_ Paint and paintbrush
- \_ Metal legs



## movable office

Roomy and remarkable, this desk provides plenty of hideaway storage and work space.

1. **Identify** the desk base. These white drawer units are from IKEA and came with the casters, but you could attach casters to most desk bases.
2. **Attach a length** of wood countertop to the desk base using metal L-brackets.
3. **For extra storage**, we attached a zigzag shelf to the work surface. For a stationary desk, you could also hang shelves on the wall to free up a little more desk space.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Two drawer units
- \_ Casters
- \_ Wood countertop
- \_ L-brackets

easy furniture



diy tip

When working with polyurethane, avoid shaking the can. Instead, stir the contents to mix the product without introducing air bubbles. Brushed-on air bubbles will leave marks in the finish. Apply polyurethane with a foam brush, and always work in a well-ventilated space.

**YOU'LL NEED:**

- \_Unfinished table
- \_Wood putty
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Brackets
- \_Black marker
- \_Wood glue and screws
- \_Furniture wax
- \_High-gloss polyurethane
- \_Drawer hardware

## console table

Give an unfinished table one-of-a-kind style with this globe-trotting look.

**1. Remove any detailing** that will detract from your design goal. Fill holes with wood putty. Sand and prime. Apply a coat of paint; let dry. Sand, prime, and paint additional design details such as these ornate scrollwork brackets. Outline the edge details with a permanent black marker.

**2. Attach each bracket** with wood glue and screws. Apply a coat of furniture wax, such as Briwax, with a rag to create an aged patina.

**3. Apply two coats** of high-gloss polyurethane to give the console table a little shine. Attach new hardware.





## wall shelves

A single board becomes a sculptural shelf with this easy idea.

1. **Cut three** 9x14-inch shelves from the end of a 10-foot-long, 1x11-inch board. Cut three evenly spaced 9x14-inch notches along the top edge of the remainder using a jigsaw. This piece will hang on the wall.
2. **Use wood glue** and 1½-inch screws to secure each shelf to the wall unit so the shelf sits on the bottom of each notch. Drive three screws through the back of the unit into each shelf.
3. **Finish the piece** with black stain. Hang from heavy-duty hangers.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_1x11-inch board, 10 feet
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Wood glue
- \_1½-inch screws
- \_Drill
- \_Stain
- \_Hangers

slim vanity

A low-profile place for primping looks pretty in any bedroom.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- |                     |
|---------------------|
| _3 floating shelves |
| _Cleat              |
| _Table saw          |
| _Birch log          |
| _Drill              |
| _Sandpaper          |

1. **Hang two** 3-foot floating shelves side by side at a height comfortable for sitting (ours is 30 inches above the floor, which works with our stool). Attach to the wall with a drill and a cleat or the provided hardware.
2. **Use a table saw** to cut two birch logs to the depth of the shelves. Sand rough edges. Measure the diameter of the birch logs and hang a third shelf above the other shelves at a height that is equal to the diameter of the log. Slip the logs between the shelves so it appears the logs are supporting the top shelf.





photo a



photo b



photo c



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Birch plywood
- \_ Circular saw
- \_ Four 4-inch casters
- \_ Drill
- \_ Wood screws
- \_ Birch logs
- \_ Miter saw
- \_ Wood glue
- \_ Grout
- \_ Grout float
- \_ Putty knife
- \_ Clear polyurethane

## birch log table

Get back to nature with a table inspired by the great outdoors.

- 1. Determine the desired size** of your finished table. Cut a piece of plywood to this measurement for your table base using a circular saw. Attach casters to the table base with screws, positioning the casters 1 inch from the edge of the table. Build a box from plywood that is 17 inches tall and shorter than the base on all sides by the diameter of the birch logs. Attach the box to the plywood base (a).
- 2. Cut birch logs** to 18 inches using a miter saw. Bead wood glue along one side and on the bottom of each log. Secure to the wood base and box (b).
- 3. Top the box** with a piece of plywood. Screw the top to the box to secure. Cut 1-inch-thick wood rounds using a miter saw. Secure to the box top with wood glue.
- 4. Spread grout** over the top of the logs with a grout float, smoothing between the edges (c). Let grout dry. Seal with clear polyurethane.



**diy tip** Search online for furniture legs in different lengths, styles, and wood species. Our bar uses dining table legs. Secure the unit to the wall so that the bulk of the weight is supported by the cleat.

**YOU'LL NEED:**

- \_Modular storage units
- \_Drill, screws
- \_MDF, table saw
- \_Wooden furniture legs
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Cleat

## open bar

A shoe caddy becomes party headquarters with storage for bottles of wine.

- 1. Shop for modular** storage units such as this shoe shelf and shoe cubby. Screw them together.
- 2. Use a table saw** to cut MDF to fit the top and bottom of the units plus about ½-inch overhang on the front and sides.
- 3. Secure wooden** furniture legs to the unit, then sand and prime. When dry, cover in semigloss latex paint. Let dry. Secure to the wall using a cleat.



# kitchen cart

Give your kitchen a bonus work surface with a movable cart.

## YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Tool cabinet
- \_Storage accessories
- \_Drill, screws, and bolts
- \_Butcher block
- \_Table saw

1. **Find a steel tool cabinet** to fit your space. Study the cabinet's structure so you are aware of any obstacles before purchasing storage solutions to be attached to the cabinet.

2. **Secure various** wall-mount storage units, such as rails, paper towel holders, and spice holders to the cabinet using screws and bolts.

3. **Cut a piece** of butcher block with a table saw to fit the top of the cabinet plus desired overhang. (The weight of the block kept our top in place, but you could use screws to secure the top to the cabinet.)





## bench seat

For a brasserie-worthy dining settee, pair an upholstered headboard with a seat-height bench.

1. **Hang a purchased padded** headboard—or make your own—a few inches above the bench. Attach to the wall using anchor bolts.
2. **Stitch up** a comfortable cushion to fit the bench. Fill with a cushy foam filler. Pile on a few pillows.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Headboard
- \_Anchor bolts
- \_Drill
- \_Sewing machine, thread
- \_Fabric
- \_Batting or fiberfill
- \_Bench



## room divider

Three cabinets fit together to make a large storage wall.

1. **Replace the flimsy backs** of three cabinets with sturdy sheets of plywood. Offset the units to create a wider and more stable base, and screw the units together.
2. **Sand, prime, and paint the divider.** Varying the colors breaks up the size of the piece. If desired, use a focal-point color inside the upper cabinets to highlight a collection.
3. **Dress up the backs.** The backs of the living room cabinets serve as hanging space in the entry for peg racks made from cabinet knobs. The back of the center unit provides display space for artwork in the living room.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Three cabinets
- \_Plywood
- \_Screwdriver and screws
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Knobs





## storage bookshelf

If you can build a box, you can make this dramatic custom unit.

1. **Search thrift stores** and flea markets for various baskets, bins, bowls, drawers, and even suitcases. These will determine the sizes of boxes to build. Find pairs or trios that are the same or similar in height so boxes across one level line up.
2. **To build one box**, use a table saw to cut MDF to your desired size. Make each piece the same depth so the bookcase sits flush against the wall.
3. **Using a jigsaw**, cut a groove or dado joint at the top and bottom of the inside of each side piece.
4. **Fit the pieces**, glue the joints, and clamp. When dry, remove the clamp and insert screws to strengthen the joints. Cover the screws with wood putty. Sand, prime, and paint.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Storage pieces
- \_MDF
- \_Table saw
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Wood glue
- \_Clamp
- \_Drill
- \_Screws
- \_Wood putty
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Primer, paint, and paintbrush

### DIY 101

Learn more about how to build a box. **TURN TO PAGE 251 FOR THE HOW-TO.**

## bedside table

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Four wood crates
- \_ Drill, screws
- \_ Table saw
- \_ Plywood
- \_ Paint supplies
- \_ Casters

Combine four crates into a rustic side table with display space.

1. **Screw four same-size** wood crates together for a country-inspired look.
2. **Measure a plywood** top and bottom that are about 2 inches wider on each side than the width of the crates. Cut plywood with a table saw.
3. **Stain or paint plywood** as desired. Secure the top and bottom to the crates with screws. Attach four 4-inch casters to the bottom of the table.





# mudroom storage

Reconfigure a purchased bookcase into a storage closet.

**1. Sand all surfaces** of the bookcase and wipe thoroughly with a tack cloth. Stain the bookcase following the manufacturer's instructions; let dry.

**2. Add pattern** to the cabinet with a stencil detail. Spray the back of a stencil with stencil adhesive. Adhere the stencil to the bookcase back, patting gently to ensure that all areas have adhered well. Pour a small amount of paint onto a disposable plate. Pick up a scant amount of paint on a stencil brush. Tap the brush onto paper towels to remove excess. Using light pressure, apply the paint to the stencil. Remove the stencil; let dry. Apply two or three coats of finish sealer, letting dry between coats.

**3. Arrange shelves** for optimal storage. Add hooks to the back to hang hats and coats.

## YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Bookcase
- \_Sandpaper, tack cloth
- \_Stain
- \_Stencil
- \_Stencil adhesive
- \_Paint, disposable plate, and stencil brush
- \_Paper towels
- \_Sealer
- \_Hooks





## bench table

A bench doubles as a bedside table and window seat.

1. **Purchase a** ready-to-finish or ready-to-assemble bench with shelves.
2. **Sand the bench** and wipe down with a tack cloth. Prime, paint, and let dry. Lightly sand and wipe down with a tack cloth again before painting a second coat.
3. **Stitch a cushion** to top the bench and put it to work.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Bench
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Sewing machine, thread
- \_Fabric and cushion



## simple shelf

Hang a slim shelf in a narrow entryway.

1. **Measure your wall** space to determine how long the shelf can be. Figure out how many bracket supports you'll need. In this foyer, a trio of sleek metal brackets supports an antique floorboard to create a perch that's perfect for keys and mail.
2. **Choose shelf material** and cut it to size. Reclaimed lumber, plywood, laminate shelves—anything goes.
3. **Attach brackets** to the wall. Position the shelf, and attach the shelf to the brackets.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Shelf material
- \_Saw
- \_Brackets
- \_Drill



# coffee table

Shorten a too-tall table and dress it up for company with a tailored slipcover made from a painter's drop cloth.

## YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Table
- \_Circular saw/jigsaw
- \_Upholstery foam
- \_Drop cloth
- \_Sewing machine, thread

**1. Use a circular saw** or jigsaw to cut the legs off a desk or dining table to your desired height.

**2. Measure the top** of your table and transfer the measurements to a length of 2-inch upholstery foam. Cut out the shape.

**3. Wash and dry** a painter's drop cloth using fabric softener and dryer sheets to soften it. Sew a skirted slipcover from the drop cloth to fit the foam and drop below the table's apron.



## wall-hung desk

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Desk and drawer components
- \_ Magnetic strips
- \_ Stencil
- \_ Stencil adhesive
- \_ Paint
- \_ Stencil brush or pouncer

Mix storage pieces and magnetic strips for an environment that works.

1. **Carve out a section** of wall space. Arrange desk and drawer components and attach to the wall.
2. **Hang shelving** on the wall to cut the clutter. Magnetic desk accessories help organize your space.
3. **Use a stencil** to adorn the file cabinet front. Spray on stencil adhesive to secure the stencil. Dip a stencil brush or pouncer into paint and fill in the stencil. We used the same color as the wall to add design without overwhelming the small space.







## shim screen

Modest, simple shims transform bifold doors into a screen.

1. **Determine the desired height** of the screen and trim the bifold doors if necessary.
2. **Prime and paint** the shims and doors. Speed the time of the project by renting a paint sprayer.
3. **Lay out the pattern** and glue the shims, then staple each in place. (While functional, the staples also add decorative punch.) Retouch paint if needed. Add hinges to the doors.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Bifold doors
- \_ Shims
- \_ Primer
- \_ Paint and paintbrush
- \_ Wood glue
- \_ Staple gun
- \_ Hinges





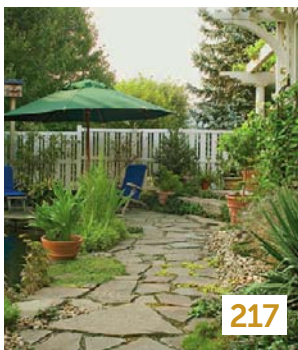
1436







# take it outside outdoor accents



outdoor accents



diy tip

Terra-cotta chimney flues are a versatile design material. You can paint them: Rough up the glazed exterior with sandpaper; prime and paint. To use them as planters, fill the liners with gravel for drainage and potting soil, then plant. At \$7–\$15, they're a less expensive alternative to pots.



## outdoor table

Give an earthy nod to midcentury design. The slatted top of this table looks streamlined—and it makes cleanup a snap.

- 1. Cut cedar** 2x4-inch boards and 4x4-inch posts to the desired length. Lay the boards on a level surface, placing  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch spacers between the boards until you reach the desired width.
- 2. Cut several** 2x4s approximately 1 inch shorter than the width of the tabletop with a circular saw. Place these 2x4 braces evenly along the length of the table. Use decking screws to hold the 2x4s in place on the bottom of the tabletop. Remove the spacers.
- 3. Visit a masonry** supply store to buy two hard-fired, terra-cotta chimney flues for the table base. They are available in a variety of diameters but are typically sold in 24-inch-long segments. Plan to prop up the flues 4–6 inches for comfortable seating height. Set the tabletop on the base.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_2x4 cedar boards
- \_4x4 cedar posts
- \_Circular saw
- \_Decking screws
- \_Drill
- \_Two chimney flues





## garden fence

Stop backyard critters from grazing on herbs and vegetables with a fence made from stock materials.

- 1. Start with** a purchased 8-foot fencing panel from a home center. Remove decorative details; reinforce panels if needed, then cut to 20 inches high with a circular saw.
- 2. Prime all wood** elements with exterior primer; let dry. Apply two or three coats of exterior paint to all wood elements; let dry.
- 3. Drive post** holders into the ground with a sledgehammer. Cut all posts to desired height. Slip posts into holders and tighten screws. Secure panels between posts with deck screws and braces. Staple chicken wire to inside panels, leaving 8–10 inches on the ground. Cover wire with mulch.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ 4x8-foot preassembled wood fence panel
- \_ Circular saw
- \_ Primer
- \_ Paint and paintbrush
- \_ Sledgehammer
- \_ 4x4 fence posts
- \_ Drill
- \_ Deck screws
- \_ Screwdriver
- \_ Chicken wire
- \_ Staple gun
- \_ Wire snips





diy tip

Store the trough in a shady area to cure for 30–60 days. The hypertufa gets stronger every day. Spraying with water decreases the duration of this process to about 30 days.

photo a

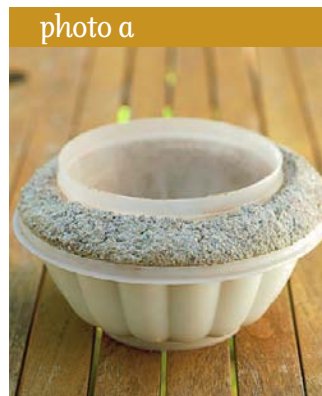


photo b



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Plastic containers
- \_Quikrete Portland cement
- \_Perlite
- \_Peat moss
- \_Reinforced concrete fibers
- \_Wheelbarrow
- \_Trowel

## concrete vessels

Hypertufa is an easy material to work with that yields sophisticated results.

**1. Gather plastic containers** to make pots. Use pairs of slightly different-size containers to shape your pots.

**2. Mix 2 parts** cement to 1 part perlite and 1 part peat moss. Mix dry ingredients in a wheelbarrow with a trowel. Add reinforced concrete fibers to give your hypertufa more strength. Add warm water to the wheelbarrow and mix until the consistency is like cookie dough.

**3. Pack the bottom** of a larger plastic container. Nestle a second, smaller container into the larger one until the mixture reaches the top of the larger container (a). Before the concrete sets, remove from the containers and poke a drainage hole (b).





**Round planter** Stack precast concrete manholes purchased from a concrete fabricator to make an interesting garden planter.



**Rectangular planter** Plant personality in your garden using concrete edging. Start with a concrete mold and a bag of extra-strength, fiber-reinforced concrete mix. Customize your creations with concrete colorants.



**Sculptural spheres** Cast a half sphere at a time, using 10-, 12-, or 15-inch-diameter molds. Sandwich two halves to make a round with a spread of mortar holding them together. Dabs of outdoor acrylic paint add a mossy appearance that becomes even more realistic with weather and age.



**Square planters** Build a square planter using pavers and a tube of landscape block adhesive. Build a square with four pavers, securing each side with a bead of adhesive. Secure the bottom of the planter with drops of adhesive to allow for drainage. Let cure for 24 hours.





photo a

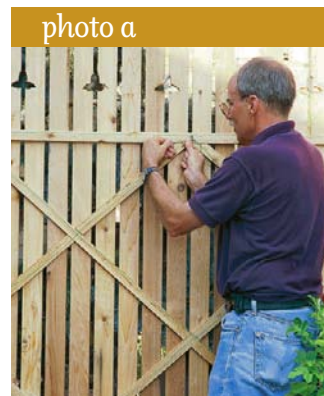


photo b



## espalier fence

Diamond-shape espalier is a gardener's best friend.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Wood strips
- \_Circular saw or handsaw
- \_Drill
- \_Deck screws
- \_Screw eyes and wire

- 1. Dress up** a privacy fence with a vertical garden. Shop your local nursery for good, easy-growing vines in your zone. Amend and prepare the soil for plantings, adding compost. (Turn to page 257 for how-to.)
- 2. Build a wood grid** to train the plants on. Attach the grid to the fence with deck screws. Attach wire to the grid using screw eyes (a). The wire gives vining plants something to cling to as they grow.
- 3. Install the** plantings. When training young growers, wrap the plant around the wire (b). Pinch back plants if they begin to grow astray.





## living monogram

Rethink the wreath: You can grow succulents in a custom monogram you hang on the wall.

**1. Enlarge and print** your initial in an easy-to-build font. Transfer the form to plywood and cut out with a jigsaw. Build the sides of your monogram using 1x2-inch cedar boards.

**2. Cut boards**, then glue and nail together. Sand any rough spots and wipe with a tack cloth. Prime the letter; let dry. Paint with two coats of glossy paint, allowing it to dry between applications.

**3. Insert and attach** chicken wire inside the letter with a staple gun. Fill with sphagnum peat moss and succulents. Hang with hooks that make it easy to remove, clean, and care for plants.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Plywood
- \_1x2-inch cedar boards
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Glue
- \_Hammer and nails
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Tack cloth
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Chicken wire
- \_Staple gun
- \_Peat moss and succulents
- \_Hooks



## storage shed

Turn a standard utility shed into the bright spot of your backyard using colorful decor and inexpensive storage ideas.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Pegboard
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Wall shelf
- \_Curtain
- \_Curtain hardware
- \_Storage containers

**1. Line interior walls** with painted pegboard. Use the predrilled holes as a support network for hanging everything from buckets to garden tools.

**2. Add a wall-mounted shelf** as a potting counter. Curtains mounted below the counter mask rolling caddies of potting soil and additives.

**3. Store birdseed** and fertilizer in bins and pails to keep them dry and contained.





diy tip

Exterior-grade paint adorns outdoor fabrics, plywood artwork, and other garden accents, creating durable splashes of color. Color inspiration for this deck was pulled from an outdoor fabric.



## outdoor rug

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_All-weather rug
- \_Stencil
- \_Stencil adhesive
- \_Exterior paints
- \_Disposable plate
- \_Stencil brush or pouncer

Decorate a deck with layers of colorful accessories and art, including a floor covering you personalize with a colorful stencil.

- 1. Purchase an all-weather,** sisal-look rug. Find a stencil or make your own. Plan the placement of your painted design before starting. Use stencil adhesive to secure the stencil to the rug.
- 2. Add a joyful bolt** of color with paint. Purchase exterior paints in your color scheme. This rug blooms like a cottage garden with flowers of different hues.
- 3. Pour a small amount** of paint on a disposable plate. Fill a stencil brush or pouncer with paint and dab the paint in the stencil.





div tip

A bird stencil pattern adds a hint of color to the curtains backing the swing, *below*. Use exterior acrylic paint for this project to make it durable. Place the stencil on the fabric. Load a pouncer and paint the design.



## all-weather curtains

Curtains with large grommets add privacy and sun control.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Electrical conduit
- \_Plumbing fittings
- \_Chain-link fence finials
- \_Awning fabric
- \_Grommet punch and grommets
- \_Polyester rope

**1. Measure the length** and width of the porch area where you'll hang curtains. Tip: The porch's side walls are usually the best choice for hanging.

**2. Cut galvanized** 3/4-inch electrical conduit (\$5 for a 10-foot piece) for strong, inexpensive, and weather-worthy curtain rods. Plumbing fittings secure the rods to the porch's structural beams. The finials were once tops for chain-link fence posts.

**3. Using a grommet** punch, add grommets to the top of the fabric. The grommets force the heavy fabric into vertical folds. The panels are corralled along the railing with lengths of polyester rope knotted on both ends. Finish the edges of each panel.



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Drill
- \_Feed pan
- \_Plastic zip ties
- \_Glass bottles
- \_Braided framing wire
- \_Four stainless-steel quick links
- \_Two S hooks
- \_Eye hook
- \_Candles

## bottle chandelier

Make an outdoor fixture that adds ambience with recycled glass bottles and candlelight. Bonus: No electricity needed.

**1. Drill holes** around the edges of a galvanized feed pan (from a farm-supply store) to hold the bottles; in the bottom so rain won't collect; and near the top edge to suspend the chandelier.

**2. Feed zip ties** through the side holes and tighten around the bottles, choosing bottles with a good curve to prevent them from slipping.

**3. Loop four pieces of braided wire** through the upper holes in the feed pan and secure with a stainless-steel quick link. Measure carefully so that all the wires are equal length. Feed the wire loops through S hooks and hang with an eye hook. Fill the pan with candles.







photo a



photo b



photo c



## stepping-stones

A large rhubarb leaf inspires a sure-footed garden path.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Large leaf
- \_ Pea gravel
- \_ Coarse sand
- \_ Concrete mix
- \_ Bucket
- \_ Trowel
- \_ Skewer
- \_ Burlap

**1. Dig a hole** using your chosen leaf as a template; the hole should be about 3 inches deep (a). Lay a 1-inch base of pea gravel. Top it with ½ inch of coarse sand.

**2. Prepare the concrete** in a bucket, adding water slowly to half a bag of quick-setting mix. Blend the concrete with a hand trowel until it is moist.

**3. Fill the hole** evenly with concrete. Press and sculpt the concrete into a leaf shape (b) with your hands. Place a leaf vein-side down on the surface of the concrete. Press to make impression; remove leaf.

**4. Enhance the veins**, if you like, by deepening them using a wooden skewer (c). Cover the stepping-stone with damp burlap. Keep it covered and damp to help strengthen the concrete while it cures.





## flagstone path

A handsome and durable flagstone pathway makes a great addition to any yard.

1. Use a **garden spade** to edge the perimeter of the path. Excavate the area (depth will depend on height of pavers) and level the surface.
2. Bend **plastic edging** to conform to the shape of the path and secure with rods.
3. Lay **permeable** landscape fabric to prevent weeds from emerging. Rake about an inch of sand over the fabric.
4. Move **stones** into place, keeping gaps between stones to 2 inches or less. Wiggle stones into the sand so they are the same height. Fill gaps between stones with decorative landscape rock. Use graduated sizes that are 1 inch or smaller in diameter.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Garden spade
- \_Plastic edging
- \_Rods
- \_Hammer
- \_Landscape fabric
- \_Shovel
- \_Sand
- \_Rake
- \_Flagstone
- \_Decorative rock

### DIY 101

Like the look of flagstone? Learn more about installing a path in your backyard. **TURN TO PAGE 258.**





diy tip

Setting stones in concrete is just one way to dress it up, *below*. Before you pour, think about molds, stamps, stains, and dyes you might want to apply to a large concrete area. Enhancements made when the concrete is wet will generally last longer and look better over time than those applied after it's dry.



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Garden spade
- \_ Plastic edging
- \_ Rods
- \_ Hammer
- \_ Landscape fabric
- \_ Shovel
- \_ Gravel
- \_ Sand
- \_ Rake
- \_ Pavers
- \_ Masonry saw
- \_ River rock

## stone and paver path

Concrete pavers and blue-tone river rocks form a checkerboard transition from patio to lawn.

**1. Create an easy** and interesting path by alternating 12×12-inch landscape pavers with blue river rocks. Determine the size of your path. Dig a trough deep enough to accommodate 2 inches of gravel, 2 inches of sand, and the pavers.

**2. Install plastic edging** around the border of the path and fasten with rods. Cover with landscape fabric and fill with gravel. Fill the trench with bedding sand, leaving enough depth for the pavers, and rake smooth.

**3. Install the first** few pavers, alternating for a checkered pattern. If you need to cut pavers, use a masonry saw. Add river rocks.



photo a



photo b



## concrete path

Use a paving-stone mold to fashion a path that looks like real stone.

- 1. Mix concrete** in a wheelbarrow according to package directions. When it's ready to use, the concrete will be the consistency of oatmeal and thick enough to hold an edge without collapsing when you cut it with a shovel.
- 2. Fill the paver mold**, scooping the concrete in with a shovel and making sure to fill each area (a). Tip: Work on a dirt surface.
- 3. Spread the concrete** around the mold with your gloved hands, filling in any gaps or low points. Tap the mold with your hand to eliminate air bubbles. Smooth out the concrete, wiping away any excess. Allow the concrete to set for about five minutes before carefully removing the mold.
- 4. Let the concrete** cure overnight, fill the cracks with dirt, and wash away any excess (b). Wet the soil around the newly formed pavers to settle them.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Wheelbarrow
- \_Concrete mix
- \_Paver mold
- \_Shovel
- \_Rubber gloves
- \_Hose





## patterned deck

Stain a nautical-inspired pattern on your deck.

1. **Clean the deck** with a power washer and make repairs as needed. Sand the boards to prepare them for a new finish.
2. **Measure and mask** off squares for staining. Tape each square in half diagonally (both ways) so that you have four triangles within each square.
3. **Finish staining** triangles of one color; let dry and add a second coat of stain. Finish all of one color before moving on to the next stain. Repeat; let dry. Protect with a sealant.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Power washer
- \_ Sandpaper
- \_ Tape measure
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Four colors of deck stain
- \_ Paintbrush
- \_ Sealant



## stained rug

Transform a plain deck with vivid stains.

1. **Make any repairs** to the deck as needed before you begin. Sink popped nails, patch holes with wood filler, and make sure all railings are sturdy. Power-wash the deck with a deck cleaner according to manufacturer directions, and let dry. Sand the deck to prepare it for a new finish.
2. **Tape off** an area rug with painter's tape. A simple grid of squares stained in two different colors creates interest underfoot.
3. **Stain around** the perimeter of the "area rug" with a lighter color using a paint roller.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Power washer
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Three colors of deck stain
- \_ Paint roller



photo a



photo b



photo c



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Vinyl flooring
- \_Latex primer
- \_Paint roller
- \_Exterior latex paint
- \_Glazing medium
- \_Ruler or yardstick
- \_Masking tape
- \_Squeegee with ¼-inch notches cut out
- \_Satin-finish polyurethane

## painted floorcloth

Paint a floor covering for your outdoor room.

**1. Purchase a remnant** of vinyl flooring. Apply primer to the remnant; let dry. Apply one coat of light-color paint; let dry.

**2. Prepare a 1:1 mixture** of glazing medium and a darker shade of the paint color. Draw a grid of 12-inch squares. Tape off alternating squares and roll on the glaze mixture. Comb through the glaze with a notched squeegee, wiping it clean after each stroke. Let dry.

**3. Tape off** uncombed squares. Apply glaze and comb through at a right angle to the completed squares (a). Then comb again in the opposite direction (b). Finally, comb in a zigzag motion (c). Repeat for remaining squares; let dry. Remove tape. Protect with two coats of polyurethane.







## stenciled patio

Dress up concrete with a painted pattern resembling clay tiles.

1. **Clean the concrete** with a power washer. Once dry, paint the entire area a tan color using a stain designed for concrete.
2. **Create squares** using 1-inch-wide tape. (Ours are 14-inch squares.) At each intersection, place a 3-inch-square piece of paper on the diagonal. Lay tape along the edges of the paper. Remove the paper and any tape crossing through the diamond.
3. **Paint the diamonds** turquoise and the squares terra-cotta. When the paint dries, remove the tape. For an aged look, blot wet paint with crumpled newspaper.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Power washer
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Concrete stain in two colors
- \_ Paper
- \_ Paint roller



## terra-cotta tier

Build a tower of color with artfully stacked pots.

1. **Start with five** pots of varying sizes. Invert two small pots inside the medium and large pots of your tower. This creates a base for stacking the pots so you don't need to fill each pot with heavy soil.
2. **Add soil** to within 2 inches of the top of each of the three pots in the tower, then stack them. Shop the nursery for a variety of plants. You'll want low-growers and cascading vines for the two lower tiers. Plant grasses or annuals in the top pot for height and drama.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Three 8¼-inch-diameter terra-cotta pots
- \_ 12¼-inch pot
- \_ 14-inch pot



## painted pots

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Nine terra-cotta pots
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Spray paint
- \_ Tape measure
- \_ Flowerpot hangers
- \_ Drill
- \_ Wood screws

You don't need a big lot to enjoy growing flowers. Hang a few pots on a privacy fence or exterior wall for a vertical garden.

**1. Collect** nine same-size terra-cotta pots. Make sure the pots have drainage holes. Using painter's tape, tape off the rim of each pot. Coat with glossy spray paint, following the manufacturer's directions. Vary the color as desired.

**2. Plan the design** on the fence using a tape measure. Mark placement of the pot hangers. Using a drill and wood screws, secure pot hangers to the fence.

**3. Fill each container** with amended potting soil and the annual or herb of your choice. Suspend the pots from the plant hangers.





outdoor accents

diy tip

Some plants prefer to have wet feet; others like to float. Plant an odd number for the most pleasing effect.

photo a



photo b



## water garden

Grow an easy-care water garden in a galvanized tub.

- 1. Choose a tub** at least 6 inches deep. A galvanized tub works well, but any watertight metal bucket, resin tub, ceramic pot, or other container will work if it holds water or can be made to hold water with a plastic liner.
- 2. Place bricks** in the bottom of the tub (a). These will act as risers for the potted plants. Select from water-loving plants widely available at garden centers and nurseries and set between the bricks (b). Top the soil of your potted plants with river rock to help hold them in place.
- 3. Fill the container** with water. Refill periodically as the water evaporates. Prevent mosquitoes by using a tablet for biological control.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Galvanized tub
- \_Bricks
- \_Aquatic plants
- \_River rock

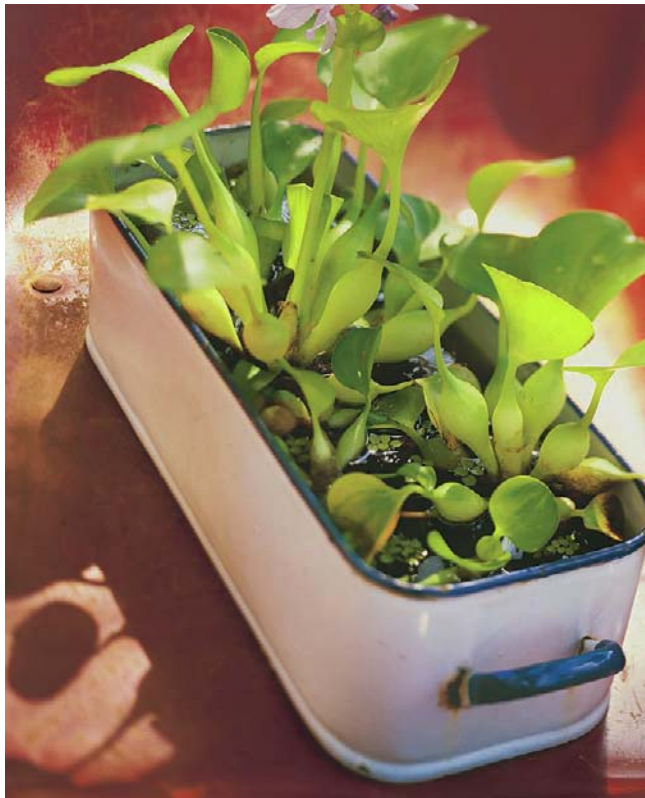




**Resin container** A resin planting container makes an ideal home for a water garden. Low-growing water plants such as water lettuce complement the container.



**Bathtub** An old tub provides plenty of space to fill with water plants large and small. Note the space needs of plants to make sure they have adequate growing room.



**Enamel bread box** Use containers you already own, such as this enamel bread box. Protect the interior from rust by coating it with a marine sealer before installing plants.



**Galvanized tub** Make a movable water garden by planting water plants in a handled tub. For plants that grow in soil, use an opaque container.





photo a



photo b



photo c



## tub fountain

Fountains can be heavy and bulky, but this tub fountain is small and portable. Site it in a flowerbed and cover the power cord with mulch.

**1. Place the pump**, with tubing attached, in the tub, making sure the intake faces downward. Fill the bottom of the tub with clay pots (a).

**2. Layer rocks over the pots**, but don't pile them all the way to the rim yet (b). Make sure the tubing is in place where the bucket will rest.

**3. Drill a hole** in the bottom of the bucket, close to the edge (c). Run the tubing up through the hole. The end of the tubing should extend several inches above the rim. Place the bucket within the rock-filled tub in its final position. Fill the bucket with rocks, keeping the tube in place. Set the gazing ball. Fill the tub with water, then plug in the pump.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Galvanized tub
- \_Pump kit
- \_Clay pots
- \_Rocks
- \_Galvanized bucket
- \_Drill
- \_Gazing ball



photo a



photo b



## ball bubbler

A hidden reservoir system beneath the stone orb makes this fountain bubble.

- 1. Dig a hole** deep enough to position a 5-gallon bucket so its rim is about ½ inch higher than ground level. Level and firm the ground.
- 2. Place the pump** in the bucket with tubing connected. Cut a notch in the rim of the bucket to accommodate the pump's power cord, which will run beneath the hog fencing and to the power source.
- 3. Cut a 3×3-foot** section of hog fencing with a hacksaw. Cut a 3×3-foot section of hardware cloth with tin snips. Cut a hole in the center of the cloth large enough to run the pump's tubing through (a). Pull the excess tubing up through the panels, leaving a little slack (b).
- 4. Insert the tubing** into the hole in the sphere, pulling it through as you lower the sphere onto the panels over the center of the bucket. Place pavers around the sphere in a pattern. Add slate chips and gravel.
- 5. Fill the bucket** with water. Cut the tubing flush with the top of the sphere, and push it down just enough to conceal it. Plug in the pump. The water will flow over the sphere and drain back through the slate chips into the bucket.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Shovel
- \_5-gallon bucket
- \_Pump kit
- \_Hog fencing
- \_Hacksaw
- \_Hardware cloth
- \_Tin snips
- \_Sphere
- \_Pavers
- \_Slate chips, gravel





diy tip

You can compost almost any yard waste, as well as vegetable peelings, eggshells, even cardboard and newspaper. Avoid meat and dairy scraps (which can attract vermin), cat and dog waste (which can carry disease), and anything that's not biodegradable.



**YOU'LL NEED:**

- \_Three pallets
- \_Posthole digger
- \_Four 4x4-inch pressure-treated posts, 8 feet
- \_Circular saw
- \_Drill
- \_Deck screws
- \_Sandpaper
- \_Primer
- \_Paint and paintbrush
- \_Shovel

## compost bin

Build a compost bin from up-cycled shipping pallets.

- 1. Determine the size** of your compost bin and mark the corners. Use a posthole digger to dig a hole about 12 inches deep in each corner. Cut the 4-inch posts and attach to the back pallet with deck screws. Set posts with concrete or backfill with dirt. Tamp dirt around posts with a shovel.
- 2. Cut each pallet** to fit the space between the back and sides. Attach pallets to the posts with deck screws. To get the step-down picket effect, mark 4-inch drops between the boards. Cut with a circular saw.
- 3. Sand, prime, and paint** the bin; let dry.





**Garden art** Punctuate your garden with a sculpture made from ceramic and glass vases, cruets, saucers, and teapots. Attach at smooth surfaces with all-weather contact adhesive.



**Bottle edging** Infuse your garden with the sparkle of glass with edging made from bottles. Bury the bottles neck down in the soil. Note: Not for children's play spaces.



**Chalkboard planter** A small rectangle of chalkboard paint on a ceramic pot is a perfect place to identify herbs in an edible container garden.



**House number** Enlarge numbers to your desired size, then laminate the paper to make a stencil. Cut out with a crafts knife. Measure and line up the stencils, then apply outdoor paint with a pouncer.









# *primer* tips, tools & techniques

# Color confidence

Take the fear out of choosing color with these tips. Remember, light affects color, so test it in your environment before you commit.

## 1 primary colors

Red, blue, and yellow are the primary hues. These colors are pure; all other colors are created from primaries.

## 2 secondary colors

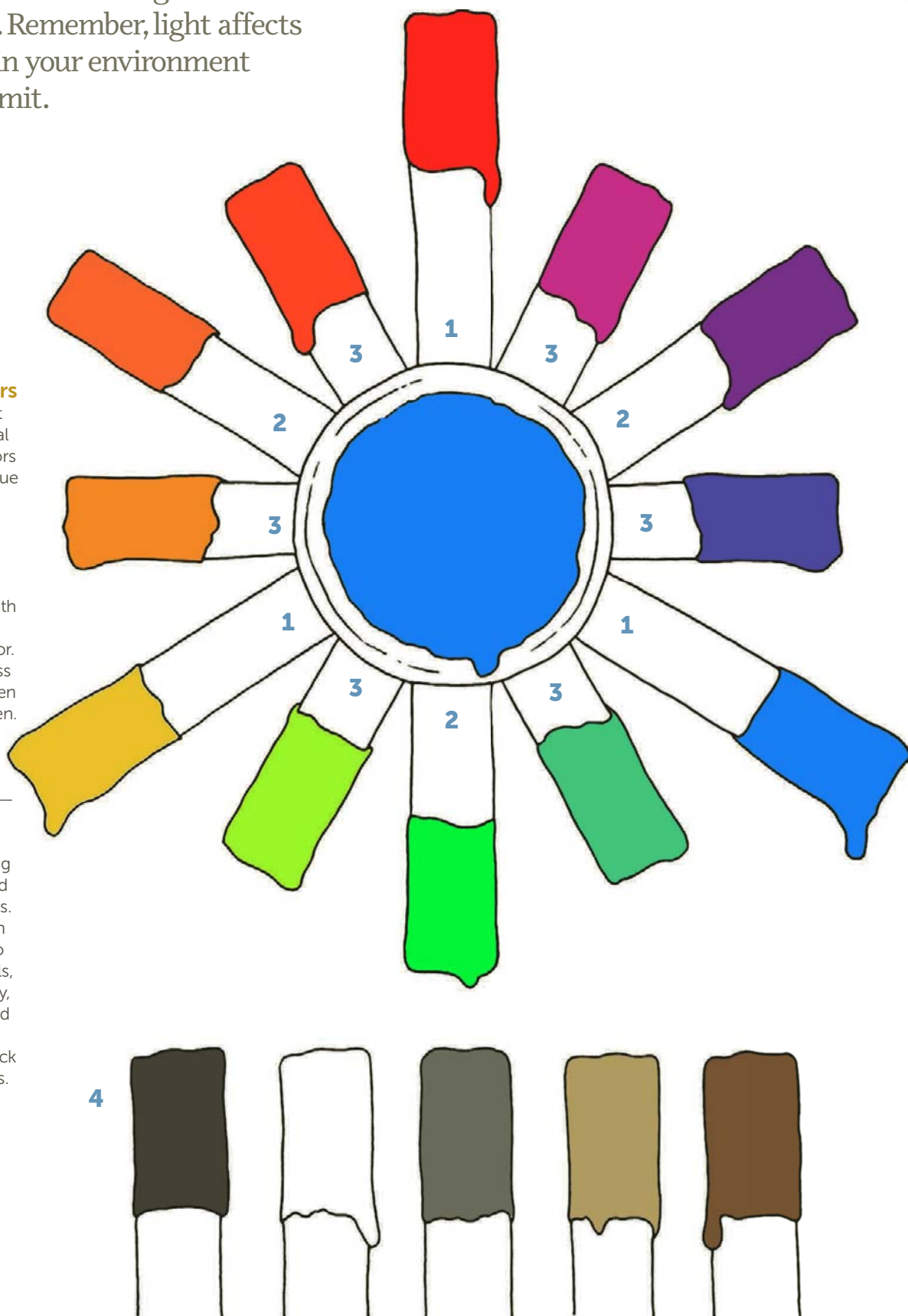
Orange, green, and violet are secondary hues, equal parts of two primary colors combined. Yellow plus blue yields the secondary hue green.

## 3 tertiary colors

Mixing a primary color with the secondary color next to it creates a tertiary color. Each blend results in a less vivid hue. Yellow and green blend to make apple green.

## 4 neutrals

Think of these “uncolors”—beiges, browns, grays, black, and white—as the supporting players, pairing nicely with most hues and providing great backdrops. Brown and beige range in intensity from soft latte to deep cocoa. Dark neutrals, including rich pewter gray, calm other colors and add sophistication. White enlivens colors, while black strengthens and stabilizes.





## diy tip

Test your color before committing to gallons of a particular shade. Most companies sell small quantities for testing. Paint a piece of white poster board and tape the board to the wall in the room you are planning to paint. Observe the color throughout the day as the light changes. Live with the color for a few days, moving the board to other walls in the room. If you still love the color, you're ready to move ahead with confidence.

## Paint finishes

**Flat paint** has a nonreflective matte finish, which is good for hiding wall blemishes. This finish does show scuffs and marks, so it's best in low-traffic areas—perfect for a ceiling.

**Satin paint** shows a slight luster with a soft texture. It's more durable than flat and works well in living rooms, dining rooms, and bedrooms.

**Semigloss paint** has a tougher skin than satin and a higher luster. It stands up well to cleaning and wear. It shows imperfections more readily than satin or flat paints. This finish works well in kitchens and baths and on trim. It also is useful in narrow hallways where light is at a premium.

**Gloss paint** is hard, durable, and easy to clean. Gloss is excellent for kitchen and bath cabinets. Its high luster makes imperfections visible.

## Working with paint chips

Paint chips are much more than little cards of color. They organize paint collections from a single manufacturer, providing a look at tints and shades.

**Value** is the lightness or darkness of a color. Sky blue is a light value; cobalt is a dark value. Paint chip cards typically have light and dark variations of one color. Use light yellow in one room, for example, and a deeper hue from the same paint-chip card in an adjoining room. For delineation, pick colors separated by at least one chip on a card.

**Shade** Dulling colors with black or gray creates shades of that color. Shades can be near the top of the paint card or at the very bottom.

**Intensity** This term refers to color saturation and specifies clearness or brightness. Adding white, black, or a complementary color to a pure color diminishes its intensity. To ensure the same intensity for contrasting colors, select hues from the same position on paint chip cards, using the same brand.

**Tint** Closest to white in value, tints are also called pastels. You'll find them on the top of a paint card or in a separate collection of whites and off-whites. Tints can appear almost white or stronger in hue.



### Primer

Primers penetrate unpainted surfaces, create a uniform skin, and can also inhibit stains. Tint your primer if you are painting a dark color over light or light over dark.



### Trim paint

The hard and durable enamel finish of trim paint stands up to constant contact and frequent cleaning.



### Interior paint

Latex paints are the best all-around paints for interiors. Low-odor, fast-drying latex has a water base and is easy to clean up.

## How many gallons will I need?

Total length of all walls × floor-to-ceiling height of one wall = sq. ft.

### Now subtract

20 sq. ft. per door & 15 sq. ft. per window ÷ by spreading rate on can

# Painting tools

A new hue can brighten a room in hours. Get ready to paint with this helpful guide to prep, tools, techniques, and cleanup.



## Canvas drop cloths

Canvas drop cloths absorb liquid and are heavy enough to stay put when used on the floor or over furnishings. A tight weave offers the best protection.



## Plastic drop cloths

Plastic drop cloths are inexpensive and protect surfaces. However, they don't absorb paint, can be slippery, and may shift easily.



## Lint-free cloths

Use lint-free cloths to remove dirt and dust, clean up spills, wipe away mistakes, or manipulate glaze techniques.



## Stir sticks

Grab free sticks when you buy paint. Stir paint thoroughly and frequently to keep the color evenly mixed.



## 3-inch brush

Good for outlining walls and ceilings and for painting large areas, this brush is a workhorse. Look for a bare wood handle to get the best grip. Hold it between your thumb and fingers in a relaxed grip.



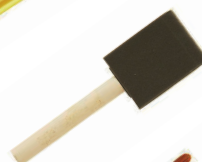
## Angled brush

This is the best tool for painting door and window frames, moldings, and other areas where you need control. Hold this brush like a pencil.



## Household brush

This brush is ideal for painting small areas, furnishings, or accent pieces.



## Foam brush

Disposable foam brushes come in several sizes for smaller paint and crafts projects.



## Artist's brushes

These brushes are perfect for detail work and freehand designs on small furnishings and accent pieces.



## Stencil brushes

Stencil brushes are available in a variety of sizes. Use large ones for overall coverage and small ones to fill in details.



## Weaver brush

A weaver brush is used to create the look of linen or denim.

**Specialty painter's tape** is used to mask off areas before painting. Medium-adhesion tape is often used on woodwork that has a nonporous finish, such as gloss or semigloss paint. It adheres and seals well and will stay put for the duration of the project. If left on too long, however, it may pull off the finish when removed. Low-tack painter's tape for delicate surfaces is used to temporarily mask off stripes, borders, and wall panels. It is often removed immediately after painting. Its mild adhesive will not pull off paint when removed. Both types of tape are available in a variety of widths.



## Roller cover roundup

### **3/16- and 1/4-inch nap**

Apply a perfect finish with gloss paints on smooth surfaces.

### **3/8-inch nap**

Roll flat and semigloss paint onto walls or ceilings with ease.

### **1/2- and 3/4-inch nap**

Tackle rough surfaces such as concrete floors and textured walls.

### **1- and 1 1/4-inch nap**

Cover brick and stucco completely.



### **Extension handle**

Extend the reach of your paint roller to make painting high walls and ceilings easier.



### **Paint pad**

Made of foam or nylon, pads are ideal for a clean line, particularly in hard-to-reach spaces and corners where rollers won't fit.



### **Roller covers**

Use a polyester cover to apply latex paints and lamb's wool for oil-base paints. Covers come in various naps, as shown *above*s.



### **Trim guide**

Try this tool when painting trim edges against walls. It also protects flooring when painting baseboards.



### **Roller**

Rollers will spread about three times as much paint as a brush in the same amount of time.

### **Mini roller**

Mini rollers make it easy to paint small areas and are ideal for getting into tight corner



### **Check roller**

After a weaver brush, *opposite*, establishes the basic warp and weft pattern, a check roller is rolled vertically and horizontally through the glaze to create the look of faded threads on denim fabric.



### **Roller tray and liner**

A metal roller tray holds paint that will be applied with a roller. Look for sturdy construction with a deep well. Also pick up disposable liners to make cleanup and color changes easier. When you've finished painting, let the leftover paint dry in the liner before throwing it away.



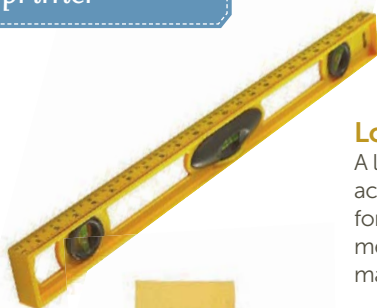
### **Triangle comb**

Combing tools create fine pinstripes when run through a top coat of glaze. Smaller combs may be purchased, and large ones can be made from a squeegee.



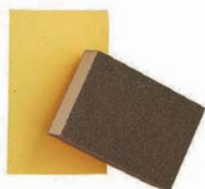
### **Wood-graining tool**

A wood-graining tool, pulled through wet glaze using a drag-and-rock motion, creates the look of knotty wood planks.



### Long level

A long carpenter's level helps accurately mark long lines. Look for a level with printed measurements to measure and mark at the same time.



### Sanding block, sandpaper

Available in medium, fine, and very fine grits, they smooth repaired walls and increase tooth for the application of new paint.



### Paint can opener

A metal paint can opener is an essential—and usually free—tool to open paint cans easily without ruining the lid.



### Scraper

Use this rigid blade to apply and smooth wall compound on a large area or to retape wallboard joints. It also can be used to remove old paint and wallpaper.



### Putty knife

A flexible-blade putty knife is useful for filling nail holes or open joints in molding and frames with wood putty or spackling compound.



### 5-in-1 tool

A multipurpose tool like this helps open paint cans, scrape narrow areas, apply compound, and remove excess paint when cleaning rollers.



### Pour spouts for gallon cans

Plastic pour spouts clip onto standard gallon cans of paint and enable easy pouring.



### Stencil acetate

Stencil acetate or plastic is used to create custom stencils. Just draw your design and cut it out using a crafts knife or scissors.

### Spray adhesive

Adhere stencils to a wall or other surface using repositionable adhesive spray, reapplying as needed.

## diy tip

When using more than 1 gallon of paint, mix all gallons together in a 5-gallon bucket.

Called boxing, this procedure will ensure that the color is uniform throughout the application. Boxing is particularly worthwhile if you're using a custom-mixed color.



**Stepladders** are critical to have on hand for most wall painting projects. Consider investing in 3- and 6-foot ladders to help you safely and comfortably paint ceilings and walls of standard height. Know how your ladders lock open and avoid stepping on the top step while working. Many roller trays attach to ladders, and there are attachments to hold cans on ladders as well.






## Paint over it!

Not sure you want to remove a surface? Here's what you need to know before painting over it.

**Wallpaper** Avoid painting over wallpaper whenever possible. Try removing the paper. If you absolutely can't get it down, here are some steps to follow. First, wash the wall with a wet sponge; let dry. Use wallpaper paste to secure any loose edges or seams. Using a roller cover with a  $\frac{3}{16}$ - or  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch nap, roll on tinted shellac-base stain-blocking primer; let dry 24 hours. To finish, apply two coats of paint.

**Paneling** Rough up your '70s-style paneling by sanding with 120-grit sandpaper. Remove sanding dust with a damp cloth. Roll or brush on bonding primer. When the primer is dry, cover the surface with two coats of your favorite paint color.

**Acoustical ceiling tile** The trick to freshening acoustical ceiling tile is popping it out and placing it on a flat surface, such as the floor. Then spray, brush, or roll on your finish. Latex paint works perfectly for this project. If the tiles are stained or yellowed, apply a stain killer before you paint.



Paint walls with a "W" motion for even coverage.

**Store paint successfully** by keeping air out of the paint container. To accomplish this, add a gasket between the cover and the can using a circle cut from a heavy-duty trash bag. Set the plastic circle on the can; place the lid on top of the plastic. Tap the lid to seat it in the well. This keeps air from penetrating. Store the can upside down in a room free from temperature extremes.

## How to store or discard paint

**Properly stored paint** will last for years. Try to save it for future touch-up jobs. Store the paint can upside down. This creates a seal around the lid. If you do not want the paint, donate it to a charity.

**If you must dispose of it**, remove the lid from latex paint and air-dry away from children and pets. To speed the drying process, add cat box litter. Discard dry paint with your normal trash.

**Oil-base paint** can be discarded with normal trash only if the paint has solidified in a closed can. The best option is to participate in your neighborhood's household waste collection program. Call your local government for details.

## diy tip

Paint your room from the top to the bottom. Start with the ceiling, then the walls, then windows, doors, and other woodwork, finishing with the baseboards. Get started by cutting in a 2-inch strip around the edges of the ceiling. Begin painting in a corner. Before painting walls, cut in along all the edges, around door and window frames, and along the baseboards. Apply the paint to the walls with a roller.

## Clean up

With proper cleaning, paintbrushes and rollers will see you through many projects.

### CLEAN YOUR BRUSH

- ☐ Brush out any excess paint on old newspaper or cardboard.
- ☐ Run the brush under warm water until the water runs clear. Clean the brush, working up into the base, with dish detergent or trisodium phosphate (TSP) solution. Rinse.
- ☐ Dry the bristles by slapping the brush against your palm and blot between paper towels. Hang in the original cardboard holders to store.

### CLEAN YOUR ROLLER

- ☐ Pop the roller cover off the metal framework. Remove as much paint as possible with a 5-in-1 tool. Run warm water over the roller cover until the water runs clear. Wash the roller using dish detergent, and rinse.
- ☐ Grasp the roller cover with your forefinger and thumb and slide down to squeeze out water absorbed into the fibers.
- ☐ Hang or stand the roller on end to dry, and store.

## Prepping your room

Plan to devote a full day to the four Ps—protecting the floors and fixtures, patching holes and gaps, prepping the surface, and priming the walls.

- ☐ Remove small items from the room and move large furniture into the center, covering it with a plastic or canvas drop cloth.
- ☐ Protect the floor with a drop cloth. Tape the edges to the floor to prevent slipping.
- ☐ Remove switchplates and outlet covers.
- ☐ Examine all surfaces for dents, holes, and cracks. Repair damaged wall surfaces with spackling paste and any damaged woodwork with wood putty, smoothing dried ridges or lumps with sandpaper. Caulk any gaps between trim and walls using paintable caulk, smoothing the caulking bead with a wet finger or damp sponge.
- ☐ Use painter's tape to tape off window and door frames, ceilings, baseboards, and other trim.
- ☐ Prime surfaces with the appropriate primer and allow to dry according to the manufacturer's directions. Now you're ready to paint!

div tip

When you take a break from your paint job, wrap your brushes and rollers in plastic bags, squeezing the air out, and seal with twist-ties or rubber bands. To leave them overnight, place the sealed tools in the refrigerator.

## Prep & paint your trim

**1. Wash away dirt and residue** from your woodwork with a TSP solution, then rinse the trim several times. Allow trim to dry thoroughly.

**2. Scrape away splintered** or chipped wood, then sand with fine-grit (120- to 180-grit) paper. Wipe woodwork with a tack cloth.

**3. Fill holes and dents** with wood putty. Fill gaps and cracks with paintable caulk. Smooth the bead by wetting your index finger and running it over the surface. Sand repaired areas and wipe down using denatured alcohol.

**4. Tape around trim** (blue painter's tape is best) and prime with a stain sealer. Allow the primer to dry for 24 hours, then sand the surface once more using 180-grit paper; remove sanding dust with a tack cloth.

**5. Wipe woodwork** with a damp cloth before applying paint; let dry. Once painted, remove the tape.



# Painting your room

step 1



## Load your brush

Dip one-third of the brush's bristles into the paint. Lift the bristles out of the paint and gently tap them (don't wipe) against the rim of the paint can. The point is to load the brush with paint just short of dripping on the way to the wall.

step 2



## Cut in

Use a 3-inch flat brush to outline walls and ceilings—a technique known as cutting in. An angled brush will work better in tricky areas that require more brush control. Leave a loosely brushed edge that allows the trimmed area to blend in when you paint the wall with a roller.

step 3



## Brush in sections

Apply the paint in long sections, each about two brush-widths wide. Brush upward to unload the brush, then down to set the paint, then up again to remove the brush marks. Tip: Wrap the ferrule (metal wrap on handle) of the brush with painter's tape to catch drips.

step 3 alternative



## Use a roller

Load a roller by dipping it into a tray full of paint and rolling it up the tray's ramp until the roller is saturated. Work in small sections (4-foot areas), rolling paint onto the wall in an overlapping W motion. Be sure to overlap still-wet areas to prevent roller marks.

step 4



## Clean brushes

Remove excess paint with a wide-tooth comb. Rinse the brush in warm water or soak the brush in a solution of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup liquid fabric softener to 1 gallon warm water for about 15 minutes. Attach your clean brush to a spin-dryer tool by pushing the handle into the stiff spring clips, and spin inside a 5-gallon bucket to remove excess moisture.

step 5



## Store brushes

Cut a rectangle of heavy kraft paper or grocery bag—twice the length of the ferrule and bristles and four times the width of the brush. Crease the paper vertically down the center. Place the brush on the paper edge and fold at the crease. Roll the brush into the paper. Secure it with a rubber band. Hang the brush by the handle or store it flat.

step 6



## Clean rollers

Scrape the excess paint out of the roller cover with the curved side of a five-in-one tool. Dump the paint back into the paint can. Rinse the cover in warm water, scraping with the tool until the water runs clear. Attach the cover to the spin-dryer over the spring clips, and spin inside a 5-gallon bucket. Stand the roller cover on its end to dry completely before storing.

Painted surfaces can stick together if they come into contact before the paint dries completely. If windows, doors, or other surfaces stick after the paint dries, rub them with talcum powder to minimize the problem.

# How to paint anything

Now that you're comfortable with basic paint techniques, find other ways to use and enjoy your newfound painting confidence. A host of specialty paints and finishes can help you with any project. Using a variety of applications, you can paint your way to a whole new look.



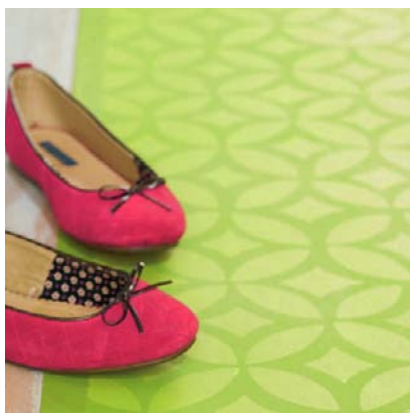
## Brick

Scrub brick with a stiff brush, water, and mild detergent, then rinse with vinegar. For tough grime, use muriatic acid and rinse with 2 tablespoons baking soda per gallon of water. Apply masonry sealer and then use a long-nap roller to apply paint. Use a brush to get paint into the grout lines and crevices. If you have newly installed brick, wait 30 days before painting it.



## Ceramics & ceramic tile

Wipe the surface clean; let dry. Use a paint made for ceramic or porcelain surfaces. Allow the paint to dry for several days or cure according to the manufacturer's directions. If not using ceramic or porcelain paint, sand the surface lightly and clean with TSP cleaner to remove grease and dirt. When dry, apply a bonding or ceramic primer. Let the primer dry. Brush on latex paint in a gloss or semigloss finish.



## Floorcloth

Base-coat your floorcloth canvas if desired. After the base coat dries, use a straightedge to guide your stencil placement. Apply your design in a contrasting color with a stencil brush, cleaning the stencil before moving it to a new section. When the paint is dry, seal and protect the design with clear polyurethane.



## Glass

Start with a clean, dry surface. If you use a pattern, tape it to the outside of clear glass. With an artist's brush, apply a thin layer of glass paint. For a more opaque finish, apply an additional coat after the first is dry. Paint slowly to avoid bubbles. Using an artist's brush, seal the design with glass-paint varnish. If you want the look of frosted glass, use a varnish with a matte finish.



## Laminate

Clean the surface with a cotton rag, water, and mild detergent such as dish soap. Let dry, then sand with 180-grit or similar fine sandpaper. Wipe with a tack cloth. Apply a special bonding primer suitable for laminate surfaces to increase the paint's adhesion. Let dry according to the manufacturer's directions. Roll or spray a top coat that works with the primer applied. Consider testing products on a hidden area first.





### Concrete

Scrub with TSP, then a bleach and water solution. Degrease oily spots using a concrete degreaser, and repair cracks with a concrete filler. Etch the surface with a 10 percent solution of muriatic acid and water. Apply a hydrodynamic sealer and two or three coats of paint designed for concrete surfaces.



### Drywall

Dust walls and wash them with TSP. Scrape off loose paint and fill any holes with surfacing compound. For new drywall, apply a wallboard sealer. For existing drywall, use a stain-blocking primer to help hide water stains. Apply two coats of latex paint, letting dry between coats.



### Fabric

Tape preshrunk fabric to plastic-treated cardboard. (Place the cardboard inside a pillow cover so paint doesn't soak through.) Use fabric paint or an acrylic paint mixed with textile medium. Apply the paint in several thin coats to work it into the fibers. Heat-set if required. Your piece can be laundered with mild detergent after 10–14 days.



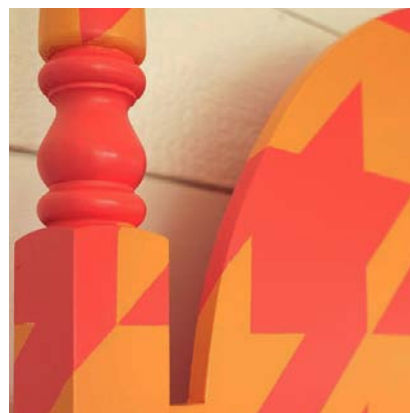
### Metal

Clean the surface with a stiff wire brush to remove flaking paint or rust. Wipe with a mixture of bleach and water using a damp cloth and let dry. Prime with metal primer and let dry, or use a paint with rust inhibitors. Apply several thin coats of paint. If using spray paint, hold the can 10–12 inches from the surface as you spray. Shake the can during the application to keep the color mixed. Spray lightly to avoid paint runs.



### Plastic

Sand the surface lightly to increase adhesion. Wash with TSP. Be careful not to touch the clean surface, leaving oil behind. Apply spray primer and then spray paint, both designed for plastic. Apply multiple thin coats according to the manufacturer's directions and let dry between coats.



### Wood furniture

If the surface is already painted or varnished, remove dirt or wax buildup with a household cleaner and rinse. Sand rough areas and wipe away dust with a tack cloth. Apply two coats of stain-blocking primer and allow it to dry between coats. Roll or brush on two coats of latex paint in the direction of the wood grain. Use a brush to finish the surface with smooth strokes.

## Sewing & crafting

With a little know-how and basic sewing techniques, you can add personal decorating touches to projects in every room of the house.

### Choose the right needle & thread

	Machine needle	Thread type
<b>decorative &amp; accessories</b>	embroidery, metallic, wing, topstitch	buttonhole, metallic, rayon
<b>crafting (light)</b>	sharp-point, ballpoint	extra-fine, all-purpose, silk
<b>crafting (medium)</b>	ballpoint, universal point	all-purpose
<b>crafting (heavy)</b>	quilting, leather, denim, ballpoint, wedge point	all-purpose, heavyweight

### No-sew curtain cheat sheet

#### Shop for tablecloths

on sale, or pick up cheap canvas drop cloths at a home center. Watch for discounted throws from your favorite retailer. Flat sheets work well, too. Each makes an excellent alternative to pricey decorator fabric.

**The beauty** of repurposing tablecloths, drop cloths, or throws is the edges are finished. If you're working with a raw piece of fabric, finish the edges yourself using iron-on hem tape around the perimeter.

**Buy curtain clips**, which eliminate the need for sewing a rod pocket. Clip the rings to your fabric and slip your curtain rod through them. Done!

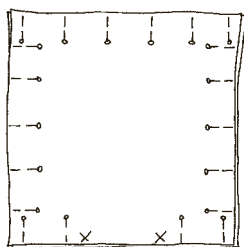
### How to sew a perfect pillow

You don't need the skills of a seamstress to make pillows for your home. Follow these easy steps and you'll satisfy your itch to stitch.

#### YOU'LL NEED:

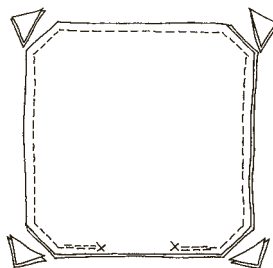
- \_ Fabric and thread
- \_ Pins and needle
- \_ Batting or pillow form

#### step 1



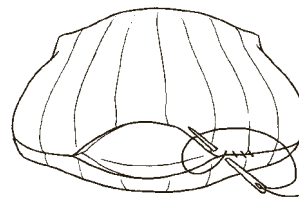
**1. Cut a front** and back piece of fabric to the desired pillow size, adding 1 inch to the length and width for the seam allowance. Place the fabric right sides together and pin. Mark an opening for stuffing along the edge.

#### step 2



**2. Sew around** the pinned fabric using a 1/2-inch seam allowance, stitching corners on an angle as shown. Backstitch where you begin and end, leaving a 4-inch opening. When finished, trim each corner at a diagonal.

#### step 3



**3. Reach into** the open seam and turn the fabric right side out; press. Insert batting or pillow form. Hand-stitch the opening closed.



## Winding a bobbin

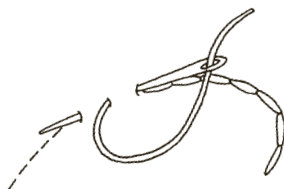
Though every sewing machine is different, most of them wind the bobbin in a similar way. Here's how to do it. (Refer to your machine's instructions as needed.)

1. Place your spool of thread on the spool pin.
2. String the thread from the spool pin through the hook at the back of the sewing machine (also called the thread guide).
3. Wrap the thread once around the tension knob at the top of your machine.
4. Pull the end of the thread through the bobbin and set the bobbin on the bobbin pin. Leave 2 inches of thread hanging over.
5. Push the bobbin pin over to the side. If you need to, disengage the sewing needle so it doesn't move as you press on the machine foot to wind your thread.
6. Allow the thread to wind around the bobbin until it reaches maximum capacity. This is usually indicated by a line on the bobbin.
7. Lift the bobbin off the pin and cut off any excess thread.

**diy tip** To create paper pulp, place small pieces of torn newspaper in a pan and cover with boiling water. Let it sit for an hour, then strain. Press between your fingers to create a mushy paper pulp. When combined with a glue mixture, paper pulp can be pressed into any number of molds, where it dries into a hard material you can shape or embellish. See projects using paper pulp on page 128.

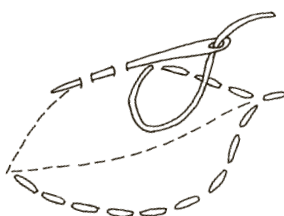
## Embroidery stitch sampler

With your magic wand (or needle) in hand, you can accomplish all sorts of projects using these six simple stitches.



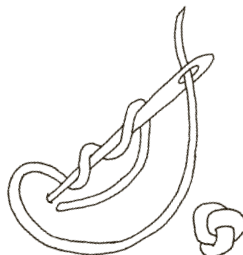
### Backstitch

Used to create a solid line, the backstitch is a key stitch. Working right to left, bring the needle up through the back of the project and create a forward stitch. For subsequent stitches, insert the needle a stitch length ahead on the backside of your fabric and bring the needle up to complete the stitch.



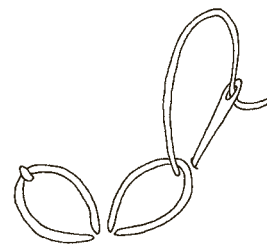
### Running stitch

It doesn't get any easier than this. To make this basic stitch, perfect for creating loose outlines, pass a needle in and out of the project. Make the top stitches slightly longer than the underside stitches, and keep the stitch length uniform.



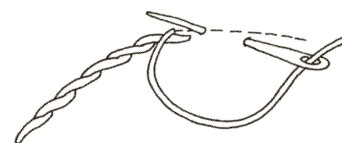
### French knot

Add detail to projects—such as flower centers—with a French knot. Bring your needle through the back of your project to the front. Wrap the thread around the needle three or four times, keeping a tight grip on the thread. Push the needle down through the fabric just next to where it came out, holding the thread tight. Pull the needle through the knot to the back of the fabric.



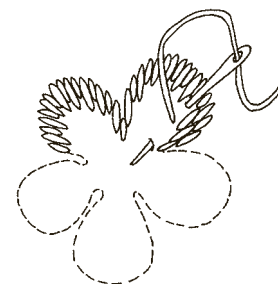
### Lazy daisy stitch

To create quick leaves or petals, try a lazy daisy stitch. Insert the needle on the back of the project (knot the end of your thread first), then pull the needle to the front. Insert the needle next to the first stitch, looping the thread under the needle. Pull the needle through to create a loop. Tie down the outside of the chain with a quick stitch, then bring the needle back up in position for the next stitch.



### Stem stitch

For outlines with extra detail, make a stem stitch. Working the stitch left to right, bring the needle up through the back of the project on the pattern outline. Hold the thread toward you and make a short slanting stitch to the right. Continue stitching to complete your pattern.



### Long and short stitch

Perfect for filling in a design, a long and short stitch combo creates a modern look. For the first row, use a backstitch to create alternate long and short stitches, following the shape of your outline. Keep working the following rows of stitches, keeping them the same length for a uniform look or alternating lengths for free-form style.

photo a



photo b



photo c



photo d



## How to make felted flowers

Create blooms that never fade by getting crafty with wool roving. Use this loose wool to create other felted products, too, such as balls and beads.

1. **Peel off a 1-inch-thick** section of roving (available at yarn shops and online at [outbackfibers.com](http://outbackfibers.com) and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)) from the bundle and gently twist the wool (a).
2. **Tie the twisted wool** into a pretzel shape—the looser, the better (b).
3. **Feed the ends** of the wool through the center of the knot to create a loose flower (c, d). Sew loose stitches at the back of the flower to secure the ends.

photo a



photo b

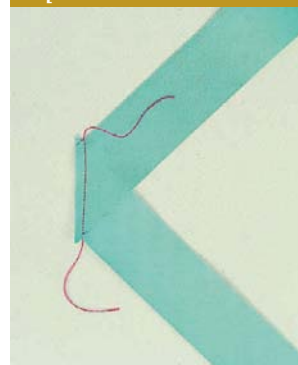


photo c

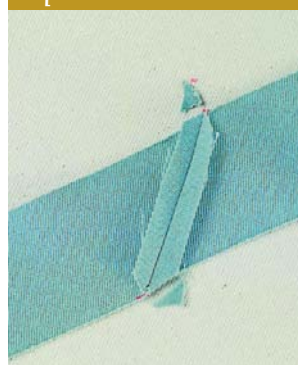
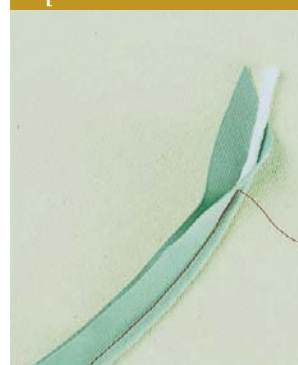


photo d



## How to make piping

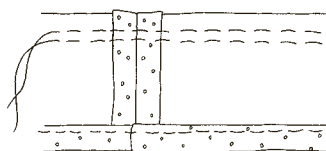
Give your projects dressmaker details with decorative piping, following these four steps.

1. **Cut fabric on the bias** (a line diagonal to the grain of the fabric) into 1-inch-wide strips with scissors or a rotary cutter (a). Tip: Fabric strips cut on the bias are easier to wrap around the cording and around corners of your finished project. But you'll need to budget for more yardage. Piping cord is available by the yard and in various sizes at fabrics stores. Look in the home decorating section.
2. **With right sides together** and using a ½-inch seam allowance, sew the short sides of the piping together, sewing at an angle as shown (b).
3. **Unfold the pieces**, press, and trim excess fabric (c).
4. **Center piping cord** on the wrong side of the fabric strip, fold over, and sew close to the edge of the piping using the zipper foot (d).

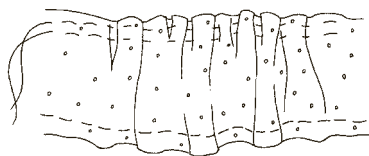
### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Rotary cutter
- \_ Acrylic ruler
- \_ Self-healing mat
- \_ Piping cord
- \_ Fabric and thread
- \_ Sewing machine





Baste two side-by-side lines.



Pull basting threads to gather.

## Make ruffles

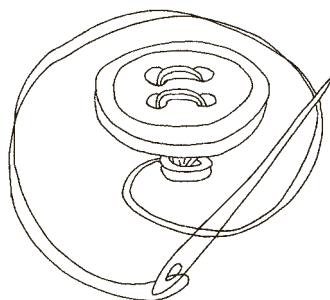
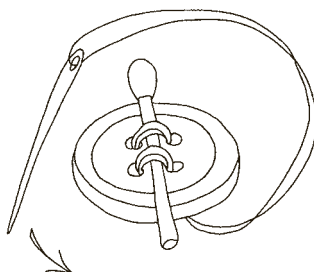
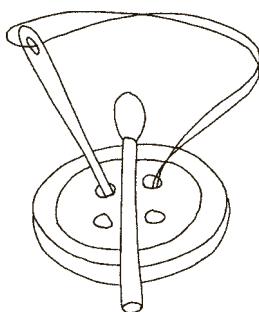
**1. Cut a strip** of fabric twice the length of your finished ruffle. Make the strip as wide as the finished ruffle, plus 1 inch for a hem and seam allowance.

**2. On a long edge**, press the fabric under  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch; repeat. Topstitch the hem in place.

**3. Machine-baste**  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch from the unfinished long edge. Machine-baste another line  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from the first, closer to the unfinished edge.

**4. Gather** by gently pulling the excess thread of each line.

**5. Pin the ruffle** to your fabric with raw edges aligned and right sides together. Sew the ruffle to the fabric with a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch seam allowance.



## Sew a button

Learn how the pros attach a button so you can add decorative embellishments to projects.

- ☐ Thread your needle. Pull thread (at least 24 inches) through the needle's eye. Knot the ends together.
- ☐ Hold the button on the fabric. Insert the needle through the underside of the fabric and up through one of the buttonholes.
- ☐ Position a toothpick or matchstick on top of the button to lengthen your stitches and produce the slack needed to form a shank. Continue sewing through each buttonhole. Repeat the stitch up to three times for each hole.
- ☐ Insert the needle up through the underside of the fabric but under the button.
- ☐ Slide off your toothpick.
- ☐ Wrap the thread end around the stitches under the button. Repeat several times.
- ☐ Insert the needle back through the fabric. Loop a knot. Cut off excess thread.

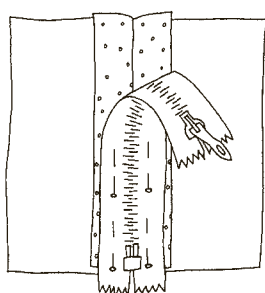
## How to sew a zipper

For a fashion-worthy finish, invest in a zipper foot for your sewing machine, which allows you to ease around a zipper.

### YOU'LL NEED:

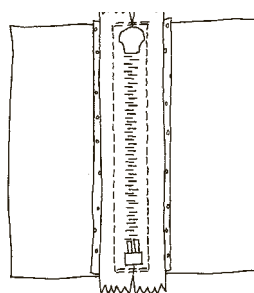
- \_ Fabric and thread
- \_ Sewing machine
- \_ Zipper
- \_ Pins
- \_ Seam ripper

### step 1



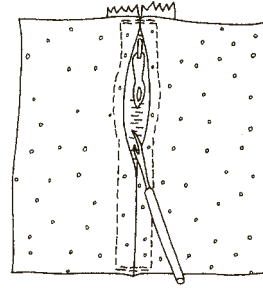
**1. Machine-baste** the seam where you're planning to insert the zipper; press open. Center the zipper in the seam, right side down. Pin.

### step 2



**2. Sew a straight stitch** all around the zipper using a zipper foot, keeping close to the zipper teeth. If the stitching is straight and you caught the zipper, you can open the seam. If not, redo.

### step 3



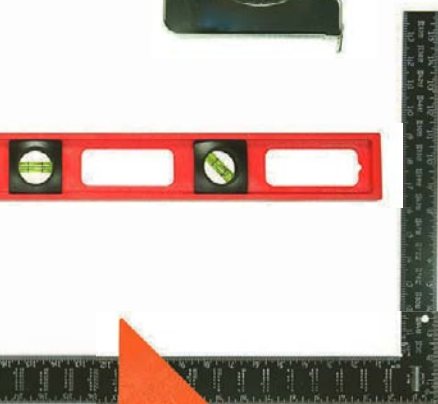
**3. Open the seam** on the right side of the project by removing the basting stitches. Run any loose threads to the inside with a needle. Tie off, and cut excess with scissors.

# Tools

A good set of tools lays the foundation for success in all your endeavors. This collection of tools will see you through most projects.

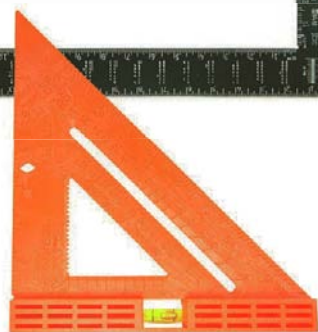


**Tape measure** Look for a locking blade, belt clip, and sturdy case. Small measures are light and easy to carry; larger models are easier to read and have longer blades.



**Carpenter's level** Available in many lengths, these tools have two sets of bubble vials—one set to show level, another to show plumb.

**Carpenter's square** You'll need this tool to make long 90-degree layout lines—up to 24 inches long. Markings embossed in metal last longer than painted markings.



**Speed square** This multitasking tool, a speed square serves as a level, square, miter square, protractor, line scribbler, and ruler.



**Stud finder** This electronic device quickly locates structural members hidden behind wallboard. Look for one that can sense electrical wiring.



**Carpenter's pencil** Thick, soft lead makes easy-to-see marks when scribing lines for cuts. A rectangular shape keeps it from rolling off the table.



**Combination square** Combining a level, square, scribing tool, and rule, this handy device allows you to level small items, check for squareness, and scribe lines.



**Bar clamp** Unlike screw-operated C-clamps, bar clamps allow you to close the jaws with one hand, leaving your other hand free to align the pieces you're clamping. Use for applying pressure to glued joints and for holding items while cutting, drilling, or fastening.



**Tongue-and-groove pliers** Adjustable jaws allow you to grip large-diameter items securely. Long handles further amplify leverage. Grab this tool for taking apart plumbing to unclog drains and for holding large items while working.



**Linesman's pliers** These robust pliers were designed to grip, crimp, shape, and cut electrical wire. But as any homeowner knows, they're useful for lots of other tasks, from pulling small finishing nails to bending and cutting coat-hanger wire for art.



**Long-nose pliers** Designed to work their way into confines that your fingers can't, these pliers are still hefty enough to provide a lot of gripping force. Choose a pair with a hinge that operates without binding and fine-tooth jaws.



**Locking pliers** These incredibly handy devices are a combination of pliers and clamp that can grip and hold items. Use them when you need extraordinary gripping force, to clamp small items together (while drilling holes, for example), or as temporary replacements for levers or knobs on faucets, door handles, or sporting equipment. Locking pliers such as these models are available in a variety of sizes and jaw styles.





**Claw hammer** These are available in a range of weights; 16 ounces is standard and good for general work. Heavier 20-ounce framing hammers speed the driving of large nails. Choose a curved claw, such as the one this model has, for easiest nail pulling.



**Tack hammer** A hammer with an elongated head, a tack hammer is designed to drive small steel upholstery tacks into furniture frames. One head is magnetic and holds the tack for the first blow.



**Center punch** The point on the head of this punch is designed to make an indentation in wood, metal, or plastic to guide a drill bit to a precise location.



**Brad nails** Use these for jobs that need small-head finishing nails. Brad nails such as these can be used with the appropriate staple/nail gun.



**Centering punch** A cousin of the center punch, this tool automatically finds the center of a mounting hole, then marks it with a pointed plunger you strike with a hammer.



**Staple gun** An evolution of the hammer, this staple/nail gun uses a spring-loaded striker to drive staples.

### Backsaw and miter box

For precision work—cutting wood and some plastics precisely square or at accurate angles—choose a backsaw and miter box. Essential for cutting moldings and picture frames to ensure tight corner joints, a miter box is an inexpensive alternative to a cabinetmaker's power cutoff saw.



**Handsaw** Almost eclipsed by a plethora of power saws, the humble handsaw still has many advantages: It's inexpensive, lightweight, compact, quiet, and relatively safe; can trim wood in close quarters; and can be used without a cumbersome power cord.



**Hacksaw** A hacksaw cuts metal, plastic, and other materials. The tensioned blade is replaceable and available with fine teeth for smooth cuts in hard materials and coarser teeth for faster cuts in softer materials.



**Utility knife** With its sharp-pointed, razor-honed, replaceable blades, a utility knife is designed to cut almost anything: cardboard, pasteboard, poster board, insulation, foam board, packaging and duct tape, crafts materials, plastic sheeting, vinyl floor tiles, and more.



**Safety glasses** Choose safety glasses that are light and offer wraparound protection. Bonus: They look more like designer sunglasses than the goggles of just a few years ago.



**Dust mask** Wear one while sawing, sanding, scraping, or drilling to avoid inhaling dust that can lead to health problems.



**Ear protectors** Essential to prevent hearing loss when using loud tools such as power saws, you'll find these protectors will hush the buzz of sanders and powered lawn tools, too.



**Work gloves** These protect your hands from nicks, cuts, and abrasions and give you a firm, comfortable, no-slip grip. Choose a style with stretchy spandex and adjustable closures for a safe, snug fit.



### Ratcheting screwdriver

This single compact tool replaces a whole drawer of old-fashioned screwdrivers. Various types and sizes of bits store inside the handle, where you can't lose them, and slip into the business end of the tool to drive slotted, Phillips-head, square-drive, and other types of fasteners.

**Socket wrench** Sold in sets consisting of a ratcheting wrench handle and a collection of sockets sized to fit various hex nuts and bolts, a socket wrench is the fast way to tighten and loosen fasteners on everything from furniture to cars, offering a secure grip.

**Adjustable wrenches** With a jaw that adjusts to various size bolts, this wrench serves the same function as a set of nonadjustable, open-ended wrenches. While the largest adjustable wrench can grip a small nut, the large head and long handle can render this tool useless in tight quarters.

**Wood glue** This is suitable for all kinds of woodworking; choose a formula that is strong, quick-setting, easy to use, and weatherproof, allowing you to create projects that will hold up to outdoor exposure. Wood glue, when clamped or screwed, forms a bond that's almost invisible and often stronger than the wood it joins.



**Rivet gun** This tool lets you join pieces of metal too thin to screw together, and also works when you can't reach the back of your project to fasten a nut on a bolt.



**Cordless drill-driver** If you don't own one yet, buying one will transform your DIY experience. If you have an old model, try a new one. Drill-drivers allow you to drill holes and drive screws and other fasteners quickly and precisely, taking the tedium out of everything from building ready-to-assemble furniture to removing switchplates before painting a room. This model features light, powerful lithium-ion batteries and a fast-charging power pack that keeps the juice flowing. Look for at least 12-volt batteries, an adjustable multiple-position clutch, and a minimum of two speeds. A variety of drill bits will have you ready for any job.



**Circular saw** For large projects, a circular saw seems indispensable. Designed for fast, smooth, accurate cuts in lumber and sheet materials such as plywood, some circular saws can cut metal and other materials with the appropriate blade. Look for a powerful motor, easy-to-read depth and angle scales, and well-placed handles for good balance.



**Saber saw** The most versatile of power saws can cut wood, plastic, metal, and sheet goods such as plywood and particleboard. It can make straight, angle, and bevel cuts, but excels at cutting curves—something a circular saw can't do. For this reason, a saber saw is a good first choice of power saw. A handy feature: a blower that keeps the area free from sawdust as you work.

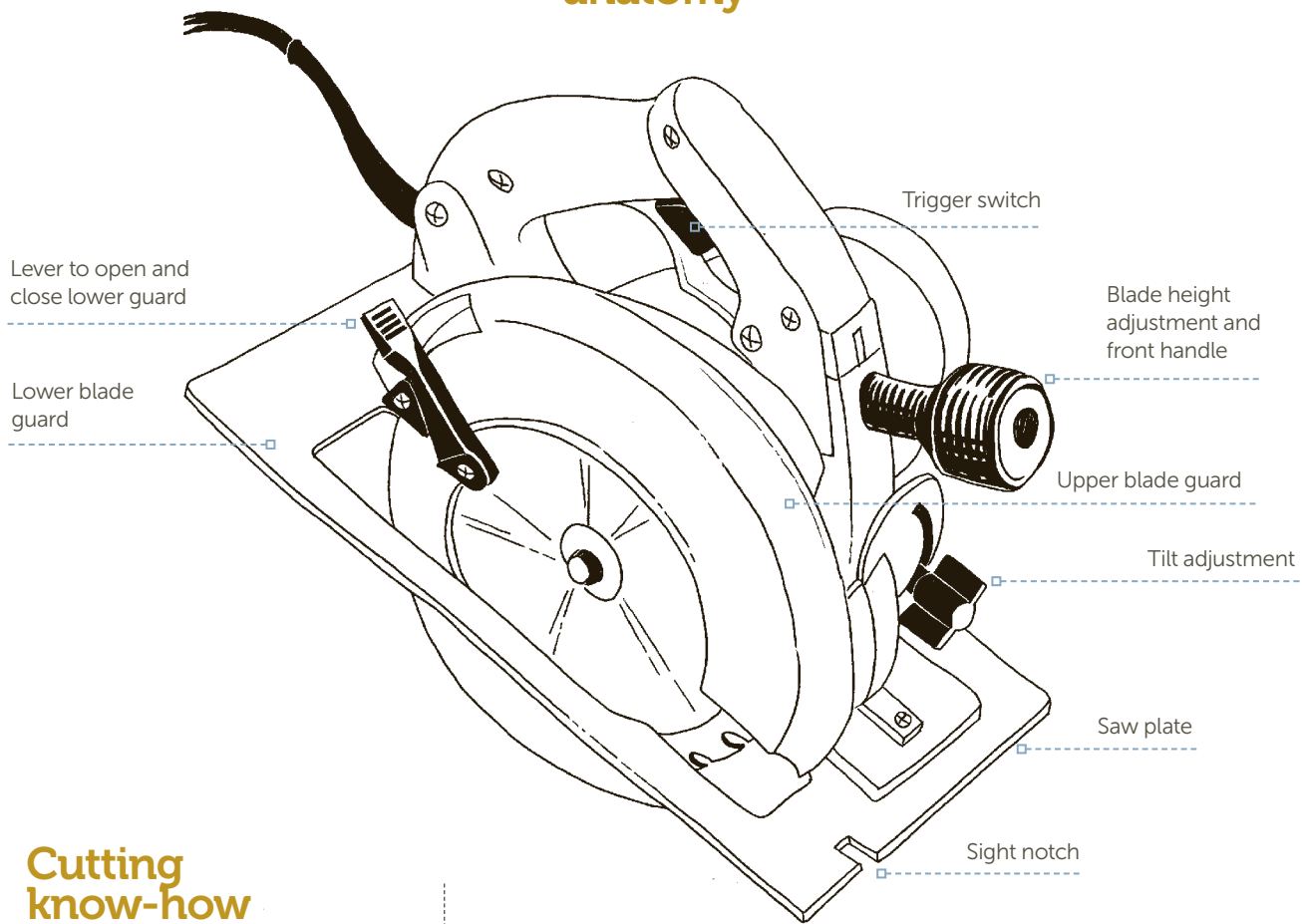


### Random-orbit sander

There's no need to own two sanders. A random-orbit sander works almost as fast as a belt sander but is easier to control and produces a finer surface than old-fashioned orbital sanders.



## Circular saw anatomy



## Cutting know-how

**Clean break** When you near the end of a cut with a handsaw, firmly grasp the scrap end and lightly press it upward to keep it from snapping and splintering on the last stroke.

**Power up** When using a power saw, allow it to reach full operating speed, then slowly push the blade into the wood.

**Score!** Use a utility knife and a straightedge to score a cut line on sheet goods such as plywood, then make the final cut with your saw.

**Facedown** Mark and cut material with the good side down to minimize splintering.

**Cut the fat** To cut thick stock, draw the cut line on all four faces, then make two cuts from opposite sides.

**div tip** Your local rental center has a wide variety of equipment available that will make many projects go much smoother. Items such as scaffolding, extension ladders, ladder jacks, and lifts are available to make your elevated tasks not only easier, but also safer. Plenty of power tools are also available for rental.

## Safety first

Before beginning any project, review the plans and instructions carefully, and if any doubts or questions remain, consult local experts or authorities. Because local codes and regulations vary greatly, check with local authorities to ensure your project is in compliance. Always read and observe all safety precautions provided by any tool or equipment manufacturer and follow all recommended safety procedures.

photo a



photo b



photo c



photo d



photo e



photo f



photo g



photo h



## How to build a headboard

If you have a weekend, you can make an upholstered headboard like the one shown on page 156.

**1. Measure the desired** height for your headboard on two doors. Our headboard is 66 inches tall. Mark cut lines (a).

**2. Saw at the lines** to size (b).

**3. Line up the** sawed-off doors, noting the location of interior wood framing (c).

**4. Drive six** to eight screws through furring strips into the wood framing along the bottom edges. Repeat along the headboard's top edge to link the two pieces (d).

**5. Cut fabric** and batting 10–14 inches longer than the headboard's width. Spray the upper portion of the headboard with adhesive (the lower portion will not be upholstered; your bed will hide the wood). Working with a partner, gently lay the first layer of batting in place (e). Spray on more adhesive and lay on the second layer of batting. Press into position. Lay the fabric and straighten.

**6. Working with a partner,** smooth the fabric and stretch tightly. With a staple gun, tack the fabric and batting in a few spots on the back (f).

**7. Flip over the headboard** and staple the fabric and batting every 3 inches. At the corners, remove the excess batting. Fold the fabric as if wrapping a package and staple in place (g).

**8. Nail a frame** of decorative trim (h) on the top and two sides (bottom edge does not need trim). Countersink nails, fill with wood filler, and touch up with paint.

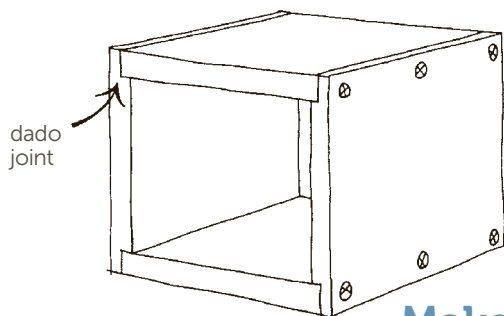
### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Two 32-inch-wide hollow-core doors
- \_Tape measure
- \_Straightedge
- \_Circular saw
- \_Sawhorses
- \_1½-inch wood screws
- \_Two 1x64-inch furring strips
- \_Drill
- \_4 yards 1- to 2-inch thick batting
- \_2½ yards fabric
- \_Stapler and ¾-inch long staples
- \_18 feet 1-inch-wide wood trim
- \_Finish nails
- \_Nail set
- \_Wood filler
- \_Paint supplies



**diy tip** When you're drilling pilot holes for nails, do what carpenters do. Use one of the nails as a drill bit. Clip off the head with diagonal cutters or a nail puller and tighten the nail in the drill. The hole you drill will hold the nail snugly, and the wood won't split as you drive the nail.





## Make a box

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_MDF
- \_Table saw
- \_Jigsaw
- \_Wood glue
- \_Clamp
- \_Drill
- \_Screws
- \_Wood putty

**1. Use a table saw** to cut medium-density fiberboard to your desired box size. Opposite sides should measure equally. Make each piece the same depth so the sides are flush.

**2. Using a jigsaw**, cut a groove or dado joint into each vertical side for a better fit (see illustration, above).

**3. Fit the sides together**, fill joints with wood glue, and clamp. When dry, remove the clamp, and insert screws along the length of the box. Cover screws with wood putty. Sand to remove excess; prime and paint.

You can get the look of the boxy bookshelf shown on page 197 sans major power tools. Use purchased modular storage cubes or shelves and wood boxes found at discount craft stores. Unify the disparate pieces with paint (sand and prime first), and connect with wood screws. Look for pieces of the same depth.

Don't let the rough surface of your sawhorses mar your projects. For protection, cut a 1x4 to the length of your sawhorses. Cover the board with scrap carpet, and tack to the top of the sawhorse.

## Working with pipes

Putting together projects with pipes requires pipe fittings designed for industrial use (90-degree side outlet tees, flanges, and elbows). These are metal joints that let a pipe turn a corner, connect to a wall or floor, or fasten to other unthreaded pipes. You can use Kee Klamp fittings from Kee Industrial Products (800/851-5181), which distributes products nationwide. You could also use fittings from another manufacturer; just be sure they fit the pipes you're using before you buy.

## How to rewire a lamp

Use a rewire kit designed for your type of lamp. Always unplug the lamp and remove the bulb before you start.

### YOU'LL NEED:

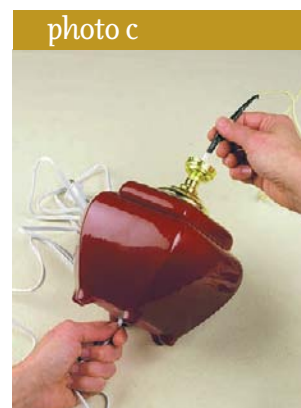
- \_Lamp
- \_Tester
- \_Wire cutter
- \_Electrician's tape
- \_Rewire kit



**1. Test wires** for breaks in continuity. Attach a tester clip to the stripped end of the neutral (ribbed) wire and touch the probe to the wide prong of the plug at the other end (a). Repeat for the narrow prong and the hot (smooth) wire.



**2. Replace the defective cord** by cutting the old cord. Strip 1 inch off the ends of both old and new cord wires. Form hooks on all four wire ends and splice the old to the new. Wrap tightly and smoothly with electrician's tape (b).



**3. Feed the new cord** into the base of the lamp while pulling the old cord through the top (c). Keep pulling until the new cord emerges. Separate the cords and discard the old one. Attach the new cord to the socket.

## Walls & floors

Add personal style with treatments for walls and floors. Use these tips and projects to take your look to the next level.

### Flooring considerations

Here are three oft-forgotten floor-shopping considerations:

- 1. Sheet, plank, or tile?** The type of flooring product is important if you're doing it yourself. But it's also a question of aesthetics. Determine where—or if—you want to see seams or grout lines.
- 2. How do you clean it?** There is no such thing as a maintenance-free floor. Carpet requires vacuuming and periodic deep cleaning. Wood floors need dusting, waxing, and occasional refinishing. Even hard-wearing ceramic tiles must be grout-sealed and mopped.
- 3. How does it feel?** Make sure you know how your flooring choices feel—and sound—underfoot. Moisture-hardy tile in the bath, for example, might be too cold for some bare feet.

diy tip

Having trouble visualizing what your floor or wall pattern will look like? Use graph paper to plot out the design. If you're looking for inspiration, stop by your tile store and ask for a planning brochure and design catalog to help you create decorative patterns and borders. Many tile manufacturers offer free brochures filled with great ideas.

### Buying wallpaper

The majority of patterned wallpapers fall into two categories: straight match and drop match. Determine which type of paper you have before you start to cut.

**Straight match** indicates that pattern elements of the same design are directly opposite each other on the left and right edges of the strip.

**Drop-match** patterns begin near the edge of one sheet and are completed on the next sheet with a design that repeats diagonally. Drop-match paper will cost you more because you'll use more to get the patterns to match up.

### How to install laminate

Laminate planks are literally a snap to install.

#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Laminate planks
- \_Saw
- \_Tapping block
- \_Hammer

photo a



**1. Make the necessary preparations**—lay your subfloor, measure, mark, cut, and assemble your border row. Then you're ready to install your flooring. Most laminate fits together by tongue-and-groove (a).

photo b



**2. Snap planks together.** Tilt one plank, pushing the tongue into the groove of the plank next to it (b). Lower the plank. Use this method to lay additional planks. Stagger joints with each row.

photo c



**3. Use a tapping block** to close any gaps as needed (c).



## How to install cork flooring

Add natural beauty underfoot with a cork tile floor.

photo a



### 1. Apply contact adhesive

with a roller (a) to a clean floor according to manufacturer directions, allowing it to dry for 30 minutes or until it is tacky to the touch.

**2. Set tiles** on the adhesive (b). The working time is limited, so make adjustments quickly. Tap tiles into place by setting a board over the tile and tapping with a mallet. Use a utility knife to trim any excess. Allow tiles to set for 24 hours before using.

photo b



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Cork tiles
- \_ Paint roller
- \_ Latex contact adhesive
- \_ Board
- \_ Rubber mallet
- \_ Utility knife

## Removing wallpaper

Nonpeelable wallpaper requires the use of remover solutions to penetrate the paper and soften the adhesive. Give remover solutions a chance to work.

**1. Find a loose edge** and begin to strip the wallpaper. Vinyls often peel away easily, but you may need the assistance of a wallboard knife.

**2. If the wallpaper won't strip** by hand, perforate the surface of the wallpaper. This will allow the remover solution to enter and soften the adhesive.

**3. Cover the floor** with layers of newspaper or a drop cloth. Add wallpaper remover to hot water in a bucket as directed by the manufacturer.

**4. Use a sprayer**, paint roller, or sponge to apply the remover solution. Let the solution soak into the wallpaper according to the manufacturer's directions.

**5. Once you've loosened** the wallpaper, peel it away with a 6-inch broad knife. Be careful not to damage the plaster or wallboard. Remove all of the backing paper.

**6. Rinse the residue** from the wall with remover solution. Rinse with clear water and let the walls dry.

#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Wallboard knife
- \_ Bucket
- \_ Wallpaper remover solution
- \_ Perforation tool
- \_ Sprayer
- \_ Remover solution and sponge

## Selecting the right flooring

	ceramic tile	carpeting	sheet vinyl	hardwood
installation	easy to handle and install	somewhat difficult to handle and install	somewhat difficult to install	relatively easy to handle and install
durability	very durable	durability depends on grade	fairly durable	fairly durable
maintenance	relatively easy to maintain	more difficult to maintain	easy to maintain	easy to maintain
water resistance	water-resistant	not water-resistant	water-resistant	not water-resistant
cost	moderate to high	moderate to high	low to moderate	moderate to high

## Kitchen & bath

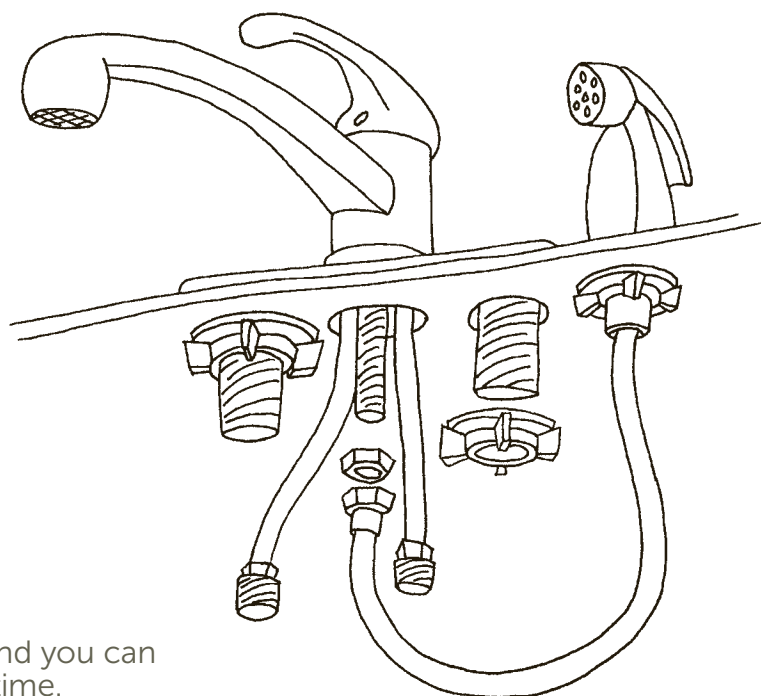
Kitchens and baths don't require major overhauls to make a serious style statement. Try these fast-fix projects.

### Replacing a faucet

Follow the manufacturer's instructions, and you can replace a leaky or outdated faucet in no time.

- ☐ Before you begin, shut off the water, then run the fixture until it empties. Disconnect the lines using two wrenches or pliers, one to hold the stop valve while the other loosens the supply lines.
- ☐ Use a basin wrench to remove nuts holding the fixture in place. Loosen the sprayer hose guide if there is one.
- ☐ Lift the old fixture out of its mount. Apply plumber's putty around the bottom of the fixture. Square it to sink.
- ☐ Install a sprayer support. Tighten the nut by hand and finish with a basin wrench. Thread the sprayer and hose through the support and center fixture.
- ☐ Make as many connections as possible before installing the faucet and sprayer to minimize time spent under the sink.
- ☐ Thread flexible lines through the hole, then set the fixture into place. Press the sprayer hose and faucet firmly into the plumber's putty.
- ☐ Have someone hold the fixture steady and straight as you attach it to the sink. Attach and tighten the supply lines. Turn on the water and check for leaks.

*Remember:  
Always check  
manufacturer's  
instructions  
before  
beginning  
installation.*



#### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Limestone
- \_ Undermount sink
- \_ Faucet
- \_ Bulk 2-inch chrome-coated brass tubing
- \_ Chop saw with pipe cutting blade
- \_ Two universal ball fittings
- \_ Four floor flanges
- \_ Two ball SO T fittings
- \_ Wood cleat
- \_ Adhesive
- \_ Caulk

### How to build a vanity

Fashion a stylish sink with pipe, a slab of limestone, and a drop-in sink.

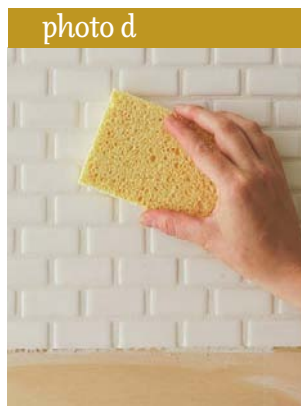
- 1. Decide the size** of your vanity. Choose the sink and fixtures. Take those measurements to your local stone company and choose a limestone countertop. Tip: Ask to pick through the remnants. You can find some great deals!
- 2. Provide measurements** to the stone fabricator to cut and polish the slab edges and holes for the sink and faucet.
- 3. Cut chrome-coated** brass

tubing with a chop saw. Attach all the ball fittings. Attach two front legs to the underside of the counter with floor flanges. The other two floor flanges attach cross supports to the wall.

**4. Cut a wood cleat** about 4 inches smaller than the length of the limestone top to support the back of the counter. Attach the cleat to the wall.

**5. Attach the undermount** sink with adhesive. Install fixtures. Run a bead of adhesive on the cleat and the front flanges. Place the stone top on the base and allow it to set. Install the faucet and drain. Caulk the seam between the back of the vanity and the wall.





## How to tile a backsplash

The backsplash can be the jewel of a kitchen or bath. Use this strip of wall to make a design statement that wows.

1. **Spread a layer** of mastic on the wall using a trowel (a). Check the manufacturer's instructions for the necessary thickness. Comb lines across the mastic using the trowel's notched edges.
2. **Position the tile** on the mastic, making sure it's level. If you need to cut tile, use a tile cutter or wet saw. Press the tile into the mastic (b). Use spacers to keep the tile uniform as you work across the surface. Let dry overnight. Tip: Work in small sections. Mastic dries in about 15 minutes.
3. **Apply grout** using a float. Spread the grout across the tile and work into the spaces between tiles using the edge of the float (c).
3. **Wash off excess grout** with a damp sponge (d). Rinse and wipe down until the grit is gone. Seal the grout for extra protection according to the manufacturer's instructions (usually several days after the grout dries).

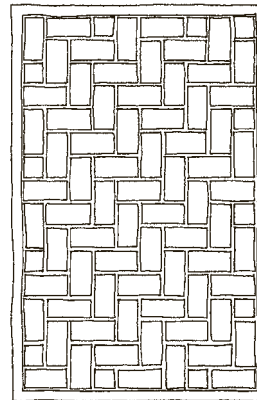
### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Mastic
- \_ Trowel
- \_ Tile
- \_ Tile cutter or wet saw
- \_ Spacers
- \_ Grout
- \_ Float and sponge
- \_ Sealant

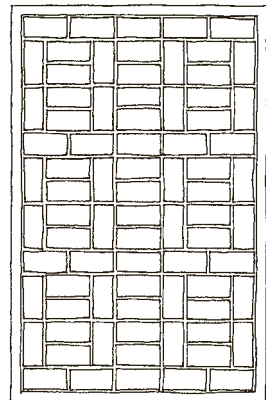
## Try a different tile pattern

Ditch the boring rows of blocks. Get creative and arrange your new tiles in unexpected ways.

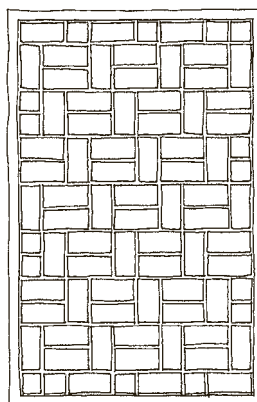
Herringbone



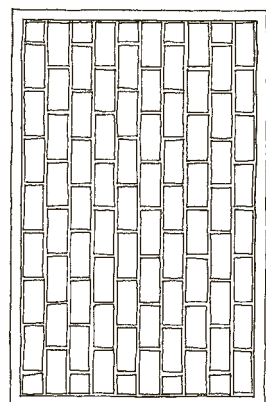
Concentric square



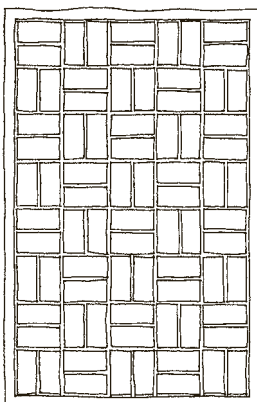
Half basket weave



Vertical



Whorling square



**diy tip** For a better tile layout, place cut tiles at the corners. Most home centers will make a few free cuts and also rent tile cutters so you can do it yourself at home.

## Outdoor living

You'll dig these projects and tips that make your outdoor spaces as comfortable and beautiful as any room in the house.

### Refinish your deck

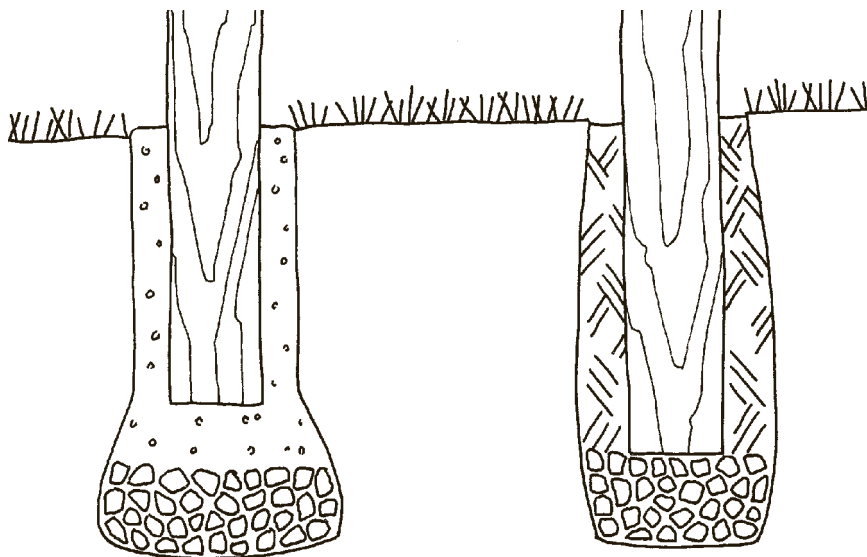
The elements can take a toll on your deck. Give yours a second chance with a new finish.

**1. You have several prep options:** Scrub with a stiff bristle brush using TSP or commercial cleaner; remove old stain with a chemical stripper; or rent a pressure washer and clean with TSP solution.

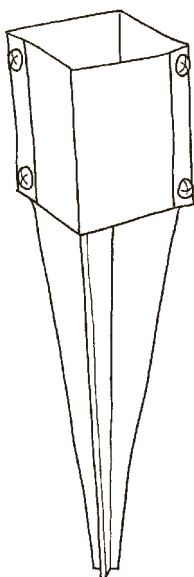
**2. Let your deck dry** before applying the recommended stain. This is a good time to replace bad boards and nails.

**3. Apply your finish.** Your application options depend on the stain type and size of your deck. You could use a paint roller. Stain only a few boards at a time to reduce overlap marks. You also could use a sprayer, which creates even coverage quickly. Or you could apply a gel stain with a pad applicator.

**4. When applying finish** to hard-to-reach places, such as end grain, seams, and gaps between boards, use a brush to work the finish into the wood. Depending on your climate, sun exposure, traffic, and protective finish, your finish may last one or two years. Ask your paint retailer for guidance.



**A posthole should be about 4 inches wider than the post.** In an area with no frost, dig holes so that half of the exposed height of the posts is below ground. In areas with frost, the holes should extend 6 inches below the frost line. Add 4 inches to the depths of holes for tamped gravel. For best results, widen the bottom of end, corner, and gate postholes by 4 inches and pour a 6-inch concrete footing. Line posts can be set in soil; they don't require a concrete footing unless your soil is loose or sandy.



### Handy helpers

**Precast metal anchor spikes** are one way to set posts. Drive the spike into the ground, then install the post in the anchor. The posts in these anchor spikes don't provide as much support as posts anchored in the ground with concrete, but they're a lot easier to install.

### diy tip

When shopping for edging, keep in mind the traits of different materials. Plastic edging is flexible and ideal for curves. Metal is rigid and best for straight edges on level ground. Wood timbers are good around raised beds. Brick is versatile. You have a choice of colors and a range of applications. Precast concrete is ideal for straight edges on level ground.



## Cool compost

Instead of kicking your trash to the curb, take it out to your backyard and create your own compost pile.

- ☐ In a heap or large bin, create alternating layers (4–8 inches deep) of green materials and brown materials.
- ☐ Let sit. The green materials will naturally create nitrogen, and the brown materials will create carbon.
- ☐ Add water regularly so the contents remain damp, but never wet. This creates the heat the compost needs.
- ☐ With a shovel or compost fork, stir the pile once a week when the compost reaches a temperature between 130°F and 150°F.
- ☐ Allow the compost to sit, stirring for one to three months or until the pile no longer gives off heat and becomes dry and crumbly. Then start feeding your blooms and veggies with this natural fertilizer.

## A recipe for good compost

### Green materials

(coffee grounds, fruit and veggie scraps, grass and plant clippings, eggshells)

### Brown materials

(newspaper, sawdust from untreated wood, dry leaves, straw, chopped wood)

### Air & water

Allow the composted materials to remain damp, but not wet.

## Facts of flagstone

Here's what you need to know before setting a path or patio with flagstone.

**Shop smart.** Choose flagstones that are at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick; thinner pieces crack more readily. Purchase stones of a fairly uniform thickness so they will be easier to lay evenly. Buy about 10 percent more than you think you'll need to allow for waste and breakage.

**Pay for delivery.** Spare your back and your car. Have the company deliver the stone as close to the job site as possible so you don't have to cart rock from the driveway to the backyard.

**Keep your cool.** Setting stone is not easy. The same uneven surfaces that make natural stone so appealing require lots of shimming and packing to create a stable surface. Sometimes you need to just walk away and come back later, with a different perspective. Patience and teamwork pay in the end.

## How to add outdoor lighting

Enjoy your landscape after dark with low-voltage lighting. Remember to follow manufacturer's instructions.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Transformer
- \_ Waterproof outlet cover
- \_ Low-voltage cable
- \_ Low-voltage landscape light fixtures and bulbs
- \_ Shovel
- \_ Phillips and flathead screwdrivers

photo a



**1. Attach cable** to transformer. Lay cables and arrange fixtures. With the first fixture in your run at least 10 feet from the transformer, determine the placement of each light. For even illumination, leave a few feet (a) between fixtures.

*Mount the transformer at least 1 foot above ground and within 1 foot of the GFCI. Apply a waterproof cover to outlet for extra protection.*

photo b



**2. Dig a 3- to 6-inch** trench (b), leaving a small amount of slack at each light juncture to connect the fixture. Leave a small amount of cable sticking out of the soil at each fixture location.

photo c



**3. Assemble fixtures** and attach each light to a cable at each juncture. Most lights attach to a cable with a two-part connector that pierces and locks into place (c). Turn on the transformer to make sure the connection is good. Attach each fixture to a ground stake. Bury cables under the soil.

photo a



photo b



photo c



photo d



photo e



photo f



photo g



photo h



## Lay a paver path or patio

Add structure to your landscape with a stone path or patio.

**1. Plot the layout** of your path or patio. (Lay a row or two of pavers to determine a configuration that won't require much cutting.) Mark the perimeter with string tied to stakes driven into the ground (a). Mark directly on the dirt with chalk or spray paint.

**2. Dig a trough** about 6 inches deep (or deep enough to accommodate 2 inches of gravel, 2 inches of sand, and the height of your pavers) (b). Cover the area with landscape fabric and fill with 2 inches of gravel.

**3. Install plastic edging** around the border of your path or patio. Fasten with metal spikes (c).

**4. Fill the trench** with coarse bedding sand, leaving enough depth for the pavers, and rake smooth. Dampen the sand, and level it by dragging a 2x6 across it (d). Add sand to low spots and remove sand in high areas. Tip: Slightly slope a patio away from your house for drainage (1/4 inch per foot). Smooth the surface with a tamper (e). You can find one at a rental center.

**5. Lay the first few pavers** snugly against the edging, starting at a corner. Use a rubber mallet to tap the pavers into place (f). Every few feet, use a level to check that the pavers are set at the same height. Make sure paver edges and joints are aligned.

**6. Use a masonry saw** (available at rental centers) if you need to make cuts (g). Always wear safety glasses, earplugs, and a dust mask when operating a masonry saw.

**7. Cover the area** with fine mason's sand when you've finished laying your path or patio. Sweep the sand into the joints (h). Sweep off any excess sand and dampen the area.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_Pavers
- \_Stakes
- \_String
- \_Chalk or spray paint
- \_Shovel
- \_Landscape fabric
- \_Gravel
- \_Plastic edging
- \_Metal spikes
- \_Coarse bedding sand
- \_Rake
- \_2x6 lumber
- \_Tamper
- \_Rubber mallet
- \_Level
- \_Masonry saw
- \_Dust mask
- \_Safety glasses
- \_Earplugs
- \_Fine sand
- \_Broom

**diy tip** Save serious cash and create a custom path or patio by making your own pavers. Prepare a bag of ready-mix concrete until it's the consistency of cookie dough. Fill a store-bought paver mold with concrete and allow to set. Once it's hardened, your paver is ready to place.





## Paint an exterior door

Your front door says a lot about who you are. If you don't like what's it's saying, change the conversation with paint.

1. **Remove the door** and place on sawhorses outside or in a well-ventilated area. Tip: Allowing your door to dry between coats may mean letting it dry overnight. Screw a piece of cut-to-size plywood into existing hardware holes to cover the door opening if necessary.
2. **Remove the hardware and hinges** (a). Cover any glass accents or windows with painter's tape (b). Clean the door by scrubbing the surface with a wet sponge (c), then lightly sand the surface.
3. **Apply primer** to the door using a foam roller (d). Use a foam brush to prime any raised or depressed panels. Let dry. Using the same technique, apply paint, starting at the center and ending with the sides. Let dry. Apply a second coat for a flawless finish. Hang door and reattach hardware.

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Screwdriver
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Sponge
- \_ Fine-grit sandpaper
- \_ 1 quart adhesion primer
- \_ 1 quart exterior paint
- \_ High-density foam mini rollers & brushes



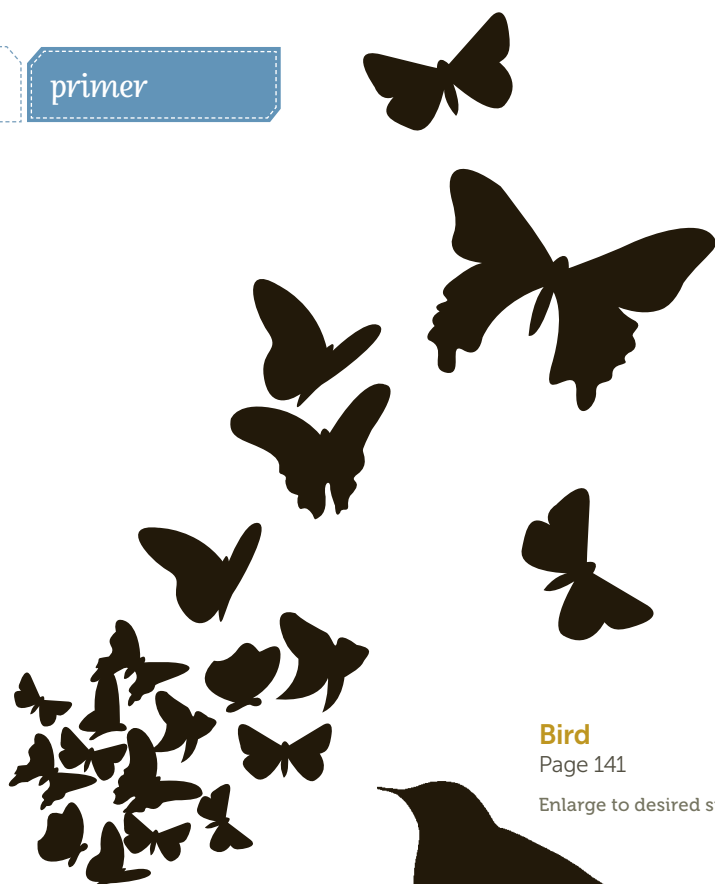
## Paint door hardware

Outdated hardware can be freshened up with a coat of paint. Follow these steps to get it right.

1. **Remove the doorknob** and lock mechanism from the door. Tip: Take photos as you go and label the images—"inside dead bolt" and "outdoor knob"—to aid in reassembly. Clean the hardware with steel wool (a), then rub the surfaces with sandpaper (b). Remove dust with a tack cloth.
2. **Insert a small piece** of folded painter's tape into the keyhole (c) so paint doesn't get in the lock mechanism. Place the hardware in foam so you can easily paint all sides.
3. **Spray hardware** with metallic primer according to the directions on the can. After the primer has thoroughly dried, spray the hardware with metallic paint (d). Let dry.
4. **Reinstall hardware.**

### YOU'LL NEED:

- \_ Steel wool
- \_ Sandpaper
- \_ Tack cloth
- \_ Painter's tape
- \_ Florist foam
- \_ Metal paint primer
- \_ Metal spray paint



### Butterflies

Page 125

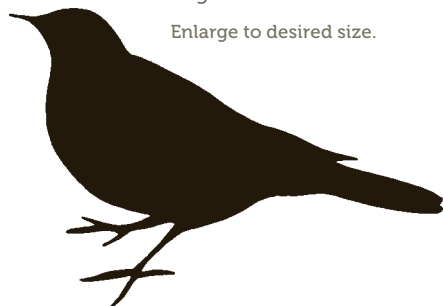
Enlarge to desired size.



### Bird

Page 141

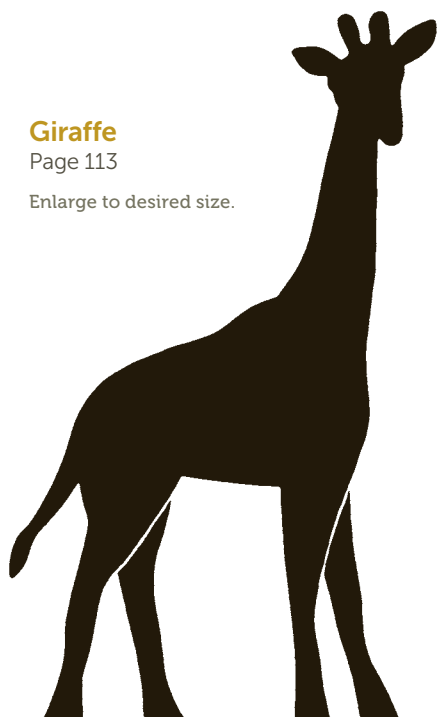
Enlarge to desired size.



### Giraffe

Page 113

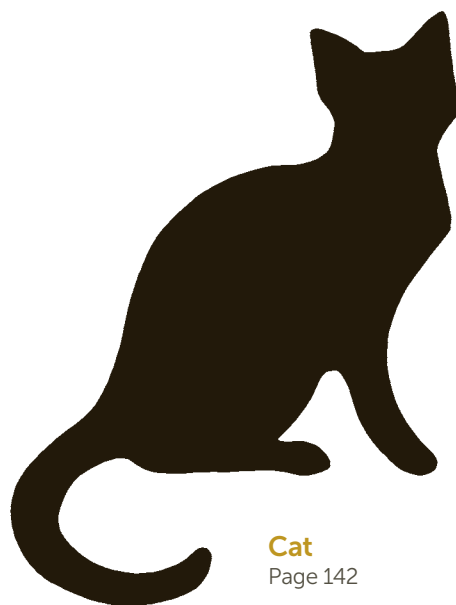
Enlarge to desired size.



### Cat

Page 142

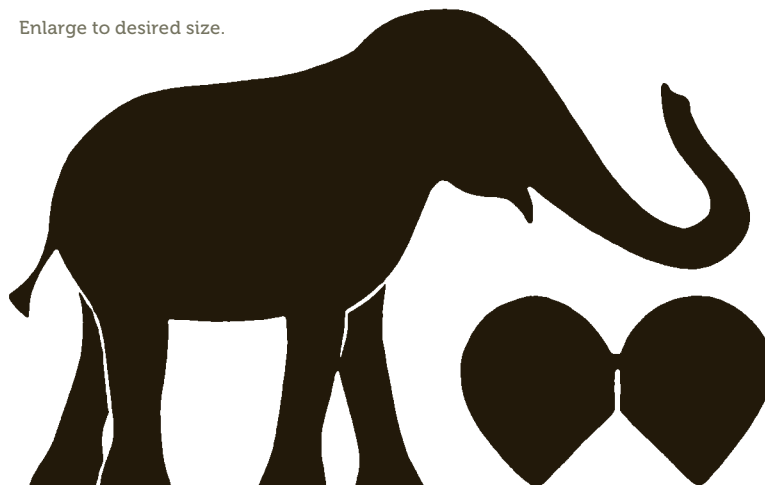
Enlarge to desired size.



### Elephant

Page 113

Enlarge to desired size.

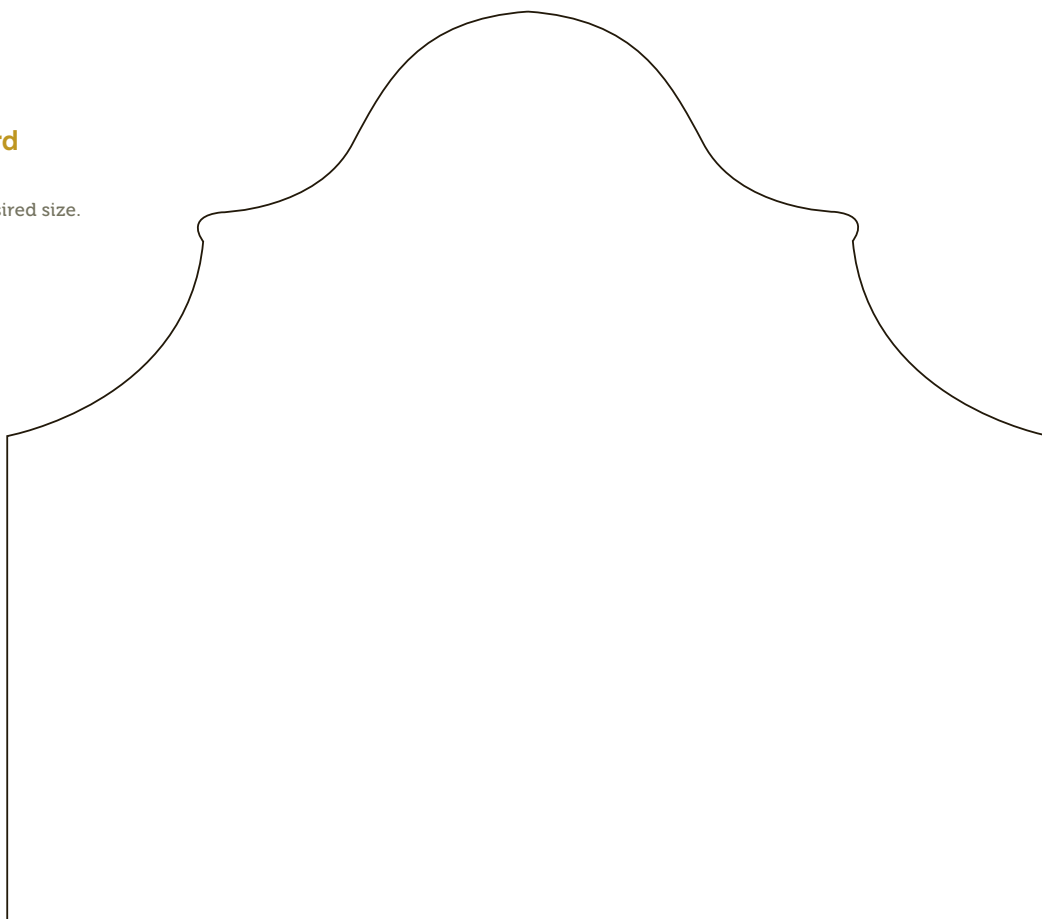




## Headboard

Page 163

Enlarge to desired size.



## Houndstooth stencil

Page 165

Enlarge to desired size.



# Editors' favorite resources

The sources for DIY products are seemingly endless. We found these helpful in creating this book.

## CRAFTS & SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

**A.C. Moore**  
acmoore.com;  
888/226-6673

**Molotow**  
molotow.com

**DecoArt**  
decoart.com;  
800/367-3047

**Delta Technical Coatings**  
deltacrafts.com;  
800/842-4197

**Dick Blick Art Materials**  
dickblick.com;  
800/828-4548

**Hudson Paint**  
hudsonpaint.com;  
845/758-3229

**Krylon Products Group**  
krylon.com;  
800/457-9566

**Plaid Enterprises, Inc.**  
plaidonline.com;  
800/842-4197

**Rust-Oleum Corp.**  
rustoleum.com;

**Sealah Adhesive Tape**  
jodeesincstore.com

**Sharpie**  
sharpie.com;  
800/346-3278

## FABRICS

**Free Spirit Fabric—  
Westminster Fibers**  
freespiritfabric.com;  
866/907-3305

**Lewis & Sheron Textiles**  
lsfabrics.com;  
800/835-4833

**Mood Designer Fabrics**  
moodfabrics.com;  
201/933-7565

**Spoonflower**  
spoonflower.com;  
919/886-7885

## PAINT SUPPLIES

**3M Scotch Blue**  
scotchblue.com

**FrogTape**  
frogtape.com;  
877/376-4827

**Graco**  
graco.com;  
800/690-2894

**Purdy Corp.**  
purdycorp.com;  
800/547-0780

**Rubbermaid**  
rubbermaid.com;  
888/895-2110

**Shur-Line**  
shurline.com;  
877/748-7546

**Shurtape**  
shurtape.com;  
888/442-8273

**Wagner**  
wagnerspraytech.com;  
800/328-8251

**Werner**  
wernerladder.com;  
888/523-3370

**Whizz**  
whizzrollers.com;  
800/767-7038

**Wooster Brush Co.**  
woosterbrush.com;  
800/392-7246

**Xtend & Climb**  
xtendandclimb.com;  
612/330-9915

## PRIMERS & PAINTS

**Behr**  
behr.com;  
877/237-6158

**Benjamin Moore**  
benjaminmoore.com;  
855/724-6802

**Better Homes and Gardens®  
for Glidden**  
walmart.com;  
800/454-3336

**Dunn-Edwards Paints**  
dunnedwards.com;  
888/337-2468

**Dutch Boy**  
dutchboy.com;  
800/828-5669

**Farrow & Ball**  
farrow-ball.com;  
888/511-1121

**Glidden**  
glidden.com;  
800/454-3336

**Kilz**  
kilz.com;  
800/325-3552

**Martha Stewart Signature  
Color through Sherwin-  
Williams**  
sherwin-williams.com;  
800/474-3794

**Olympic**  
olympic.com;  
800/441-9695

**Pittsburgh Paints**  
pittsburghpaints.com;  
800/441-9695

**Pratt & Lambert**  
prattandlambert.com;  
800/289-7728

**Sherwin-Williams**  
sherwin-williams.com;  
800/474-3794

**Valspar**  
valspar.com;  
800/845-9061

## STENCILS

**Cutting Edge Stencils**  
cuttingedgestencils.com;  
201/828-9146

**Designer Stencils**  
designerstencils.com;  
800/822-7836

**Dressler Stencil Co.**  
dresslerstencils.com;  
888/656-4515

**Royal Design Studio**  
royaldesignstudio.com;  
800/747-9767

**Stencil Ease**  
stencilease.com;  
800/334-1776

**Stencil Library**  
stencil-library.com

**Wall to Wall Stencils**  
walltowallstencils.com;  
855/598-0029

## STORES

**Ace Hardware**  
acehardware.com;  
866/290-5334

**Cost Plus World Market**  
worldmarket.com;  
800/267-8758

**Hobby Lobby**  
hobbylobby.com

**The Home Depot**  
homedepot.com;  
800/466-3337

**IKEA**  
ikea.com;  
877/345-4532

**Joann Fabric & Craft**  
joann.com;  
888/739-4120

**Lowe's**  
lowes.com;  
800/445-6937

**Michaels**  
michaels.com;  
800/642-4235

**Target**  
target.com;  
800/800-8800

**Wal-Mart**  
walmart.com;  
800/925-6278



# Index

- accents *See individual names of rooms; individual projects*
- all-weather curtains, 214
- armoires, 57, 96
- art
- children's bedrooms, 54–55
  - family spaces, 8–9, 12–13, 14–15, 16, 17, 22
  - gallery wall display, 173
  - garden art, 229
  - laundry rooms, 76–79
  - work spaces, 60–61, 62
- See also individual projects*
- backsplashes, 35, 255
- ball bubbler, 227
- bangle bracelet, 129
- bars, 22–23, 194
- basements, 12–17, 18–23, 60–63
- baskets, 51, 88–89
- bathrooms, 74–75, 84–93
- cork floors, 84–85, 86
  - for families, 92–93
  - small, 88–91
  - tools/techniques for, 254–255
  - vanities, 84–87, 88–89, 91
- beaded board, 88–89, 176
- beaded tiebacks, 129
- bedrooms, 42–57
- color for, 44–47
  - for girls, 52–55
  - guest rooms, 48–51
  - as personal space, 56–57
- See also headboards; individual projects*
- benches
- bedrooms, 51
  - bench seat, 196
  - family spaces, 21, 25
  - kitchens, 39, 41
  - work spaces, 60–62
- See also window seats*
- birch log table, 193
- board-and-batten look, 171
- bookcases, 10, 11, 16, 20–21, 24, 25, 197. *See also shelves*
- bottle chandelier, 215
- bottle edging, 229
- bowl, papier-mâché, 129
- boxes, making, 251
- breakfast nooks, 30–31, 39, 41
- brick walls, 12–13
- buffets, 40
- bunk beds, 56
- buttons, sewing, 245
- cabinets
- bathrooms, 84–85, 93
  - children's bedrooms, 54
  - custom, 140
  - doors for, 141, 142, 143
  - glass doors for, 25, 33, 40
  - key cabinet, 102
  - kitchens, 32–33, 34, 36–37, 38–39, 40
  - laundry rooms, 80–81, 82, 83
  - offices, 72
- See also storage*
- cabin walls, 177
- cake stands, 104, 119
- caning stencil, 174
- carts, kitchen, 99, 195
- ceilings, tin, 28–31
- chairs, 109, 133, 137
- chalkboard, 142
- chalkboard planter, 229
- checkered floors, 181
- children
- girls' bedrooms, 52–57
  - growth charts, 81
  - multipurpose work spaces and, 60–63
  - storage used by, in family spaces, 24
- closets
- armoires as, 57
  - bathrooms, 93
  - bedrooms, 56
  - craft spaces, 64–65, 69, 71
  - laundry rooms, 76–77, 79
  - offices, 73
- See also storage*
- clothespin caddy, 83
- coasters, 121, 123
- color
- bathrooms, 84–85
  - bedrooms, 44–47
  - children's bedrooms, 52–53
  - choosing, 232–233
  - family spaces, 8–11, 18–25
  - kitchens, 28–29, 32–35, 36–37
  - laundry rooms, 76–79, 80–81
  - office spaces, 68–69
  - work spaces, 66–67
- See also individual projects*
- compost bin/composting, 228, 257
- concrete
- floors, 12–13
  - path, 219
  - plant vessels, 208–209
  - stenciled patio, 222
  - tiles, 35
  - tinted, 179
- console tables, 13, 24, 100, 108, 189, 190
- cords, hiding, 51
- cork floors, 84–85, 86
- cork-look linoleum, 22
- crafting, tools/techniques for, 242–245
- craft spaces
- office space combined with, 68–71
  - for sewing, 64–67
  - storage for, 73
- See also individual projects*
- crates, 50–51
- custom cabinetry, 140–141
- custom lighting, 138–139
- daybeds, 48–51, 56, 57
- decal walls, 177
- decks, 220, 256
- decoupage, 67, 114–115, 162
- desks, 72, 73, 202. *See also offices*
- desktop labels, 113
- dining room, white, 10–11
- See also individual types of furniture*
- doors
- for bathrooms, 90–91
  - cabinets, 140–143
  - for children's bedrooms, 54
  - 50s style, 16
  - hardware for, 259
  - painting, 259
- drawers
- bathrooms, 92
  - bedrooms, 56
  - as headboard, 166
  - kitchens, 36–37
  - work spaces, 67
- dressers, 92, 97, 107, 115, 135
- drinkware, 121
- drying racks, 79
- dyeing, 154
- embroidery, 137, 148, 243
- espalier fence, 210
- fabric
- for bathrooms, 84–85, 86
  - for family spaces, 14–15, 25
  - headboards, 161
  - for kitchens, 30, 36–37
  - for laundry rooms, 76–79
  - masking, 125
  - ribbon, 116–117
  - stitched crafts, 136–137
  - for work spaces, 62
- See also pillows*
- family spaces, 6–25
- comfort of, 18–25
  - kitchen as, 36–41
  - paint and patterns for, 8–11
  - as rugged, 12–17
- faux bois, 125, 163
- fences, 207, 210
- filing cabinets, 69
- fireplaces, 25
- flagstone paths, 217, 257
- floors, 168–169, 180–183
- ceramic, 88–89
  - checkered, 181
  - concrete, 12–13
  - cork, 84–85, 86
  - cork-look linoleum, 22
  - for family spaces, 18–19, 22
  - graphic plaid tile, 180
  - laminated flooring, 183
  - linoleum floor tiles, 182
  - outdoor rug, 213
  - painted floorcloth, 221
  - painted porch floor, 180
  - rugs for family spaces, 14–15
  - stained rug, 220
  - stenciled patio, 222
  - tinted concrete, 179
  - tools/techniques for, 252–253
  - for work spaces, 60–61, 63
- folding screen, 101
- frames, 120, 131
- furniture. *See tools/techniques; individual types of furniture*
- garden fence, 207
- garlands, paper, 131
- glass
- for cabinet doors, 25, 33, 40
  - for drawer fronts, 36–37
  - effects, 118–119 (*See also individual names of projects*)
  - painting, 120–121, 240
  - tiles, 28–29
- graphic plaid tile floors, 180
- growth charts, 81
- guest bedrooms, 48–51
- hall trees, 127
- headboards, 156–167
- building, 250
  - carpet, 187
  - corrugated metal, 159
  - decorative decals, 160
  - decoupage, 162
  - embroidery, 137
  - faux bois, 163
  - flower photo, 167
  - grid of prints, 159
  - layered, 167
  - MDF, 44–45, 46
  - murphy bed, 163
  - pillows as, 167
  - soft slipcover, 164
  - stencil, 164, 165
  - storage drawers, 166
  - tin ceiling tiles, 160
  - upholstery, 161
  - wallpaper, 135
  - wire sculpture, 167
  - woven veneer, 158
- hooks, 123
- house numbers, 127, 229
- ironing supplies, 76–77, 78
- islands, kitchen, 36–37, 38, 41
- jewelry
- bangle bracelet, 129
  - trees, 46
- key cabinet, 102
- kitchens, 26–41
- basement kitchenette, 12–13
  - budget makeover for, 28–31
  - carts, 99, 195
  - color for, 10
  - small, 32–35
  - style for, 36–41
  - tools/techniques for, 254–255
- laminated flooring, 183
- lamps, 121
- lampshades, 18–19, 115, 117
- laundry rooms, 74–83
- color for, 76–79, 80–81
  - small, 80–83
  - ledges, embellished, 10
  - lighting, 121, 138–139, 257
  - linoleum, 22, 182
  - litter boxes, 82
  - living monogram, 211
- magazine files, 70–71
- marker transfer, for shades, 149
- memo boards, 67, 83
- mirrors, 93, 127
- Moroccan concrete tiles, 35
- movable office, 189
- mudroom storage, 199
- murphy bed, 163
- offices
- desks, 72, 73, 202
  - dual-function, 68–71

- guest rooms combined with, 51
- in kitchens, 30
- movable office, 189
- for small spaces, 72–73
- open bar, 194
- organizer project, 121
- outdoor accents, 204–229
  - all-weather curtains, 214
  - ball bubbler, 227
  - bottle chandelier, 215
  - bottle edging, 229
  - chalkboard planter, 229
  - compost bin, 228
  - concrete path, 219
  - concrete vessels, 208–209
  - espalier fence, 210
  - flagstone path, 217
  - garden art, 229
  - garden fence, 207
  - house numbers, 229
  - living monogram, 211
  - outdoor rug, 213
  - painted floorcloth, 221
  - painted pots, 223
  - patterned deck, 220
  - stained rug, 220
  - stenciled patio, 222
  - stepping stones, 216
  - stone and paver path, 218
  - storage shed, 212
  - table, 206
  - terra-cotta tier, 222
  - tools/techniques for, 256–259
  - tub fountain, 226
  - water gardens, 224–225
- painting
  - choosing color, 232–233
  - door hardware, 259
  - exterior doors, 259
  - for family spaces, 8–11
  - glass and ceramic, 120–121
  - painted finishes, 124–125
  - painted floorcloth, 221
  - painted porch floor, 180
  - painted pots, 223
  - picnic table, 103
  - processes, 238–239, 240–241
  - tools for, 234–237
- panels, window, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152
- paper art, 130–131
- papier-mâché, 128–129
- patterned deck, 220
- pavers, laying, 258
- pegboards, 32–33, 35, 69, 70–71, 73
- pencil holder, 123, 133
- pets
  - fabric and, 62
  - feeding table, 98
  - litter boxes, 82
- photo transfer, 132–133
- picnic table, 103
- pillows
  - bedrooms, 44–45, 48–49
  - fabric masking, 125
  - family spaces, 14–15, 18–19, 21, 22
  - as headboards, 167
  - in kitchens, 39
- projects, 115, 133, 137
- pipes
  - for bathroom vanities, 84–87, 88–89
  - working with, 251
- piping (fabric), 244
- planters
  - chalkboard planter, 229
  - concrete vessels, 208–209
  - living monogram, 211
  - painted pots, 223
  - plant stand, 106
  - terra-cotta tier, 222
  - tub fountain, 226
  - water gardens, 224–225
- plexiglass wall panels, 172
- porch floor, 180
- posts, setting, 256
- prints, for headboards, 159, 167
- rewiring, 251
- ribbon accents, 116–117
- room divider, 196
- ruffles, 244
- safety, tools and, 249
- saws, 247, 248, 249
- screens
  - folding, 101
  - shim screen, 203
- sewing
  - craft space for, 64–67
  - stitched crafts, 136–137
  - tools/techniques for, 242–245
- shades, window, 146, 149, 153, 155
- shed, storage, 212
- shelves
  - bathrooms, 84–85, 86, 89, 90, 92
  - bedrooms, 57
  - bookcases, 10, 11, 16, 20–21, 24, 25, 197
  - kitchens, 41
  - laundry rooms, 76–77, 82
  - offices, 72
  - simple shelf, 200
  - wall shelves, 191
- shim screen, 203
- silhouettes, 112–113, 125, 142
- sinks, 34–35, 84–85, 90
- small spaces
  - basements, 12–13
  - bathrooms, 88–91
  - kitchens, 32–35
  - laundry rooms, 80–83
  - offices, 72–73
- stained rug, 220
- stamping, 122, 125
- stenciling
  - headboards/footboard, 164, 165
  - patio, 222
  - silhouettes, 113
  - stencils for enlarging, 260
  - tables, 105
  - walls, 173, 174
- stitched crafts, 136–137
- stones
  - flagstone paths, 217, 257
  - stepping stones, 216
  - stone and paver path, 218
  - stone decor, 22
- storage
  - for bathrooms, 92–93
  - for bedrooms, 44–47, 50–51, 56–57
  - bookshelf, 197
  - for children's bedrooms, 52–55
  - for craft space, 73
  - for family spaces, 21, 24, 25
  - key cabinet, 102
  - for kitchens, 32–33, 35, 36–37, 38, 40, 41
  - for laundry rooms, 79, 80–81, 82, 83
  - mudroom storage, 199
  - shed, 212
  - for work spaces, 63, 64–67, 70–71
- tables
  - for bathrooms, 93
  - for bedrooms, 51, 198, 200
  - birch log, 193
  - breakfast, 186
  - coffee, 201
  - console, 13, 24, 100, 108, 189, 190
  - for kitchens, 30, 39
  - outdoor, 206
  - pet feeding table, 98
  - picnic table, 103
  - side, 117
  - stenciled, 105
  - worktable, 188
- televisions, 20, 22, 24
- terra-cotta tier, 222
- tiebacks, 129
- tiles
  - backsplashes, 35, 255
  - bathrooms, 86
  - floors, 180, 182
  - glass, 28–29
- tin ceilings, 28–31
- tin ceiling tiles, for headboards, 160
- tools/techniques, 230–261
  - for boxes, 251
  - building headboards, 250
  - building vanities, 254
  - color confidence, 232–233
  - kitchen and bath, 254–255
  - outdoor projects, 256–259
  - painting processes, 238–239, 240–241
  - painting tools, 234–237
  - pipes, 251
  - rewiring, 251
  - safety, 249
  - sewing and crafting, 242–245
  - tiling backsplashes, 255
  - tool descriptions, 246–249
  - walls and floors, 252–253
- tub fountain, 226
- U-shape design office, 73
- vanities
  - bathrooms, 84–87, 88–89, 91
  - bedrooms, 44–47
  - building, 192, 254
  - as desks, 72
- vases, 118–119, 127, 129
- wainscoting, 91
- walkways
  - concrete, 219
  - flagstone, 217, 257
  - pavers, 258
  - stepping stones, 216
  - stone and paver, 218
- wall-hung desk, 202
- wallpaper, 134–135, 142, 170
- walls, 168–179
  - accent wall, 135
  - bathrooms, 86
  - beaded-board, 176
  - board-and-batten look, 171
  - brick, 12–13
  - cabin walls, 177
  - caning stencil, 174
  - decal, 177
  - dimensional flowers, 178
  - gallery display, 173
  - kitchens, 38
  - laundry rooms, 78, 79
  - oversized stencil pattern, 173
  - plexiglass panels, 172
  - tools/techniques for, 252–253
  - wallpaper patterns, 170
  - wood panels, 175
- water gardens, 224–225, 226
- wicker vanity, 44–47
- window seats, 54, 60–62
- window treatments, 144–155
  - all-weather curtains, 214
  - alphabet shade, 153
  - beaded tiebacks, 129
  - for bedrooms, 44–45
  - chevron shade, 155
  - crisscross panels, 149
  - dyed linen strips, 154
  - embellished panels, 147
  - embroidered words on sheers, 148
  - for family spaces, 20–21
  - lacy patchwork panels, 152
  - marker transfer for shades, 149
  - no-sew shade, 146
  - patterned strips, 150
  - ribbon panels, 150
  - ruffles and roses panels, 151
- wire sculpture headboards, 167
- wood
  - decor, 122–123
  - faux bois, 125, 163
  - tones, for kitchens, 28–29
  - wall panels, 175
  - woodburning, 143
  - wood-grain art, 113
  - wood trim, 143
  - woodworking, 126–127
  - See also individual types of furniture*
- wool roving, 244
- work spaces, 58–73
  - multipurpose, 60–63
  - office, 30, 51, 68–71, 72–73, 189, 202
  - sewing and crafts, 64–67
- worktable, 188
- woven veneer headboards, 158
- wrapping supplies, 67, 70
- zippers, sewing, 245